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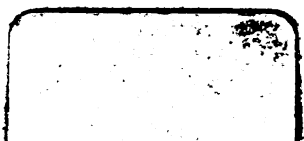
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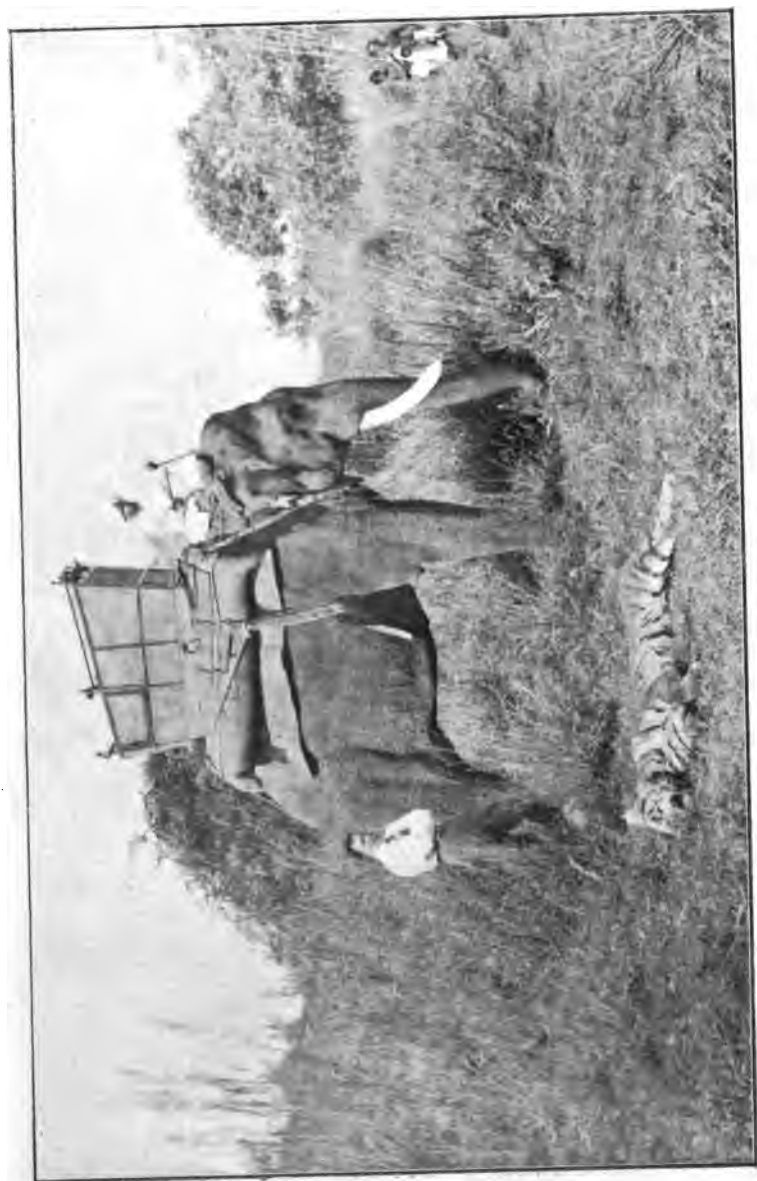
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THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS OF  
BIG GAME SHOOTING.



1. Spent, - India

THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS OF  
**BIG GAME SHOOTING**

IN

COOCH BEHAR, THE DUARS, AND ASSAM.

A ROUGH DIARY

BY

THE MAHARAJAH OF COOCH BEHAR.



BOMBAY:  
PRINTED AT THE TIMES PRESS.

1908

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## INTRODUCTORY.

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Having set down the records of my big-game shooting, it has occurred to me that readers may like to know something of the country in which the sport was found and the methods generally adopted to circumvent the game. I therefore add a few remarks on these points so that a clearer impression may be gained as to shooting conditions prevailing in Cooch Behar than I fear can be gathered from the narrative. The area of the State is about 1,300 square miles which forms a plain of almost triangular shape, covered with a network of rivers, streams and marshes. There are no hills and no large sheets of water. The country is a level plain, only rising occasionally, as at Garadhat for instance, into gradual undulations. Natural forests there are none worth speaking of though here and there clusters of *Sal* trees are to be found and patches of brushwood are common enough everywhere. Heavy grass and reed jungle are to be seen fairly frequently especially in the north and north-east portion of the State which borders on

## INTRODUCTORY.

Assam and the Bhutan Duars. I have often had occasion in my records to refer to the difficulties we experienced from the *Fasni* or swampy patches. These marshes are due, I believe, to the nature of the soil and the numerous small streams intersecting that are a feature of the country. Throughout Cooch Behar, the top layer of the soil is a light kind of loam and beneath this comes sand, neither of which offers any resistance to a pressure of water. The consequence is that year by year the rivers change their courses and leave behind marshes locally known as *churs*, which, valuable as they are from the cultivator's point of view, are an insufferable nuisance to sportsmen. With so much water about—and rainfall averaging about 130 inches to keep the supply going—it is not surprising that new arrivals find the climate unpleasantly damp and somewhat enervating. Exercise, however, is an admirable antidote to *ennui* of this sort, and though malaria is not uncommon, we seldom suffered much from it when out shooting. Winter, as a rule, sets in fairly early in November and summer commences in April, the months of March and October marking the fag-ends of the two seasons. In the cold weather, the thermometer falls as low as 49 degrees and rises to 98, or thereabouts, in June or July. I have generally

## INTRODUCTORY.

started for the annual shoot in February, but there was no hard and fast rule about this and in fact, except in the middle of the rains, I have shot at most times of the year. As regards the people, there is one important difference between Cooch Behar and other parts of India, in that the village system does not exist. This is due to the laws of land tenure, for the whole State is divided into small farms, and here the farmer has his home, with his nearest relations and occasionally a tenant or two. All the buildings are encircled by groves of plantain, bamboo and other quick-growing trees, and these homesteads form one of the principal features of the country.

This brings the dry statement of facts to a close, and I will now turn to the shooting, which I hope may prove more interesting.

The country I have generally shot over extends from the foot of the Himalayas southwards, seldom or never more than 36 miles from the base of the hills. The jungles in Cooch Behar, Duars and Assam are all very similar, and, as I have said, consist of heavy grass of different kinds, intersected by rivers and numerous *nullas*, dotted with trees outside the Forest Reserves, where I have done most of my

## INTRODUCTORY.

shikar. During the shooting season the country is generally burnt in patches, and here one follows the method adopted in covert shooting in England. Two or more guns are sent in with the line, while the rest are posted forward as "stops," and the patches beaten up to them. This sounds in itself easy enough, if it were not that one so often has to contend against difficulties in the shape of *fusny nullas* and bad boggy ground. This form of line shooting with "stops" is usually practicable in all countries I have shot over. The "stops" generally get the shooting in the case of Tiger, Bear and Leopard. With Buffalo, Rhino, and Bison, very often the guns in the line get the best sport, as Rhinos are exceedingly difficult animals to drive into the open. In forest shooting, one generally makes a big line with most of the guns in it, as it is seldom that suitable places can be found ahead to put the "stops" at. The best way of shooting in the forest is undoubtedly tracking, one disturbs the country less, and, personally, I prefer this mode as I consider it more sportsmanlike and very interesting in every sense of the word. But this has not been very often possible, as I have generally had more guests than one. Tracking, of course, is only applicable to Rhino, Buff and Bison.

## INTRODUCTORY.

For Tiger, Bear or Leopard one must have a line of hunting elephants and "stops" ahead. One has to rise very early in the morning, so as to be on the ground before sunrise to take up the fresh tracks. I might mention here that Tiger shooting—in fact any game shooting on foot—is absolutely impossible in any of the districts I have shot over, though, of course, sitting over kills on *machans* is quite feasible, but I have never adopted this method, as it is, as a rule, very dull work. I have, on several occasions, stood on a forest line just before dusk, waiting for the animal to come out to feed on the succulent grass that has sprung up in the burnt country outside the Reserves. I recall one particular evening when we actually saw 20 head of big game—18 Bison, 1 Tiger and 1 Bear, also a Sambhur Stag. As a matter of fact, we had gone out after a certain bull Bison which used to come out at dusk to feed on the line. We were, of course, all on our flat feet, and instead of the bull Bison, all this lot came out. It was very interesting to see the mighty beasts emerge from the jungle. On another occasion we sat up at night for a bull Buff which used to come out every evening and join a particular herd of tame Buffs but we were not successful, as he never turned up.



## INTRODUCTORY.

The ideal number for a shoot in these jungles is 6 guns—2 for line and 4 “stops.” Only two people, if possible, should go out tracking, and pads are better than *howdahs*, as it enables one to get through the tree jungle more easily. It is quite possible for two guns only to have very good fun, but one always requires a line of at least 40 Elephants to do any good in the jungles I have shot over.

The country close to the foot of the hills is more or less undulating, and the jungles are chiefly composed of heavy *null*, *pundi* or wild cardamum and various kinds of heavy grass. Shooting on the *churs* of Brahmaputra is a rather irksome and laborious process. One has to keep boats and cross from *chur* to *chur*, as Elephants with their kit cannot cross the arms of the Brahmaputra. The *howdahs* and pads are transported on boats, while the Elephants swim, and this causes considerable delay.

# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

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## CHAPTER I.

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1871—1880.

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For the reader's information—My first shoot—Some missing records—A grand fighter—Fishing on the Godadhur Rapids—A red-letter day with Tiger—An unpleasant surprise—Result of lighting a jungle fire.



**M**Y game-book, from which the details are taken, is unfortunately not complete.

The records of some few years have been lost, and where this is the case, I have, as far as possible, given what I believe to be the approximate figures. Glancing at the game-book I find that for some time after I commenced shooting, I contented myself with setting down the actual results of the sport, adding only a very occasional remark. Later on,

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

realizing how interesting it was to myself to look back on former days' sport, I noted many more incidents. For this reason, and the fact that the missing records are of my earlier years' shooting, the first decade, at any rate, will be very briefly alluded to. At the close of each chapter will be found a summary of results, and at the end of the book a table showing the results of sport in Cooch Behar during the thirty odd years referred to. With this short explanation I will turn to my first year's big game shooting.

1871.      Messrs. W. O. A. Beckett and R. H. Renny took my brother and myself out for my first shoot during this year, and between us we accounted for five Tiger, two Leopard, two Rhino, five Buffalo, ten Barasingh, thirty Hog Deer and seven Antelope.

1872.      There is no record for this year, and I find it impossible to remember with any accuracy what actually occurred. It must, therefore, remain a blank.

## BRIEF RECORDS.

Messrs. Smith, Kneller and my brother Jotindra <sup>1873.</sup>  
accompanied me, and the year's shooting produced the following results :—Five Tiger, four Rhino, nine Buffalo, twelve Barasingh and two Antelope.



Crossing a Stream.

The shooting accounts for these three years <sup>1874</sup>  
have disappeared, but from this point onwards no <sup>1875.</sup>  
further omissions—so far as actual results go—<sup>1876.</sup>  
will be found. I have been at some pains to

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

ascertain the total bag during this period, and have arrived, I believe, at what is probably a correct conclusion. I place it at twenty Tiger, eight Leopard, five Rhino and twenty-four Buffalo. The smaller game it is impossible to compute.

1877. We started the shoot early in the year, our party consisting of Dr. (now Sir Benjamin) Simpson, Messrs. Southby, Wilson, E. Hewett, Kneller, Dalton and myself. Commencing on January 22nd, by February 8th we had brought to book seven Tiger, six Leopard and one Rhinoceros, besides Deer, Antelope and small game. The second largest Tiger bagged during the shoot (he measured 9'-10" as he lay) proved a splendid fighter. Charging among the Elephants, he mauled several badly before he met his death. While the scrimmage was going on, a mahout, Kala Bisad by name, had a wonderfully lucky escape. Losing his seat somehow or other, he fell flat on top of the Tiger, who in his present temper

### SOME FAIR BAGS.

was anything but a pleasant neighbour. As it turned out, however, the Tiger was as much astonished as the mahout, and without further ado made a bolt of it, but we got him a little later.

Another party, consisting of Lord Brook, Sir Robert Abercrombie, Dr. Simpson, Dr. Roberts, Mr. Dalton and Dr. Cummins, commenced shooting again in the Takuamari and Falimari jungles on the 20th February, leaving off on the 3rd March, the total bag being five Tiger (one 10'-2 1/2"), ten Rhino, thirteen Buffalo, and a big bag of Hog Deer, Antelope and some Pig. During this trip there were two days' fishing on the Godadhur Rapids, bringing several hundred pounds weight of fish to land. The heaviest scaled 60lbs., and three or four others were not far off this weight. I was not with this party as I had to rejoin college.

Between this and December, there were no more shooting expeditions, but before the close of the

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

year, General Kinloch, the great *shikari*, Col. Mant, Kneller, Dalton and myself had a small camp on the Raidak River, our bag being four Tiger, four Rhino, three Buffalo, and smaller game.

1878. This year we had only two shoots, in one of which Duke Maliano (now Duke Grazzioli), Don Julio, and his brother Marquis Pizzardi, and Messrs. Sage, Dalton, Southby, Simpson, and Hewett took part. This was in March, and the bag included three Tiger, four Leopard, five Rhino, eleven Buffa-

lo, and three Bear. In April, Messrs. Smith, Kinloch and Dalton got one Tiger, eleven Rhino and ten Buffalo. Nothing shot was particularly



The Jungle.

## SOME FAIR BAGS.

large and neither expedition calls for especial remark.

Before going out into camp this year, Messrs. 1879 Simpson, Baillie, Hewett, Kneller and myself between us got seven Panther, two of which were good sized animals, the one measuring 7'-3" and the other 7'-2". Later on in March the same party shot around Garud Haut. The first Tiger we encountered was a very sporting beast which did not even wait for the Elephants to be put into the cover, but charged us at sight for all he was worth. Hewett knocked him over. We commenced shooting on the 4th March and finished on the 28th, and during the twelve days we had been out we secured two Tiger, nine Leopard, eleven Rhino and twenty Buffalo, together with a certain amount of lesser game.

In 1880, we had three shoots, commencing on 1880. 22nd of January. The first shoot only lasted for five days, and Dalton, Kneller and myself suc-



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

ceeded in bagging five very fine Tiger and one Tigress, the biggest Tiger being 10'-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

On the 22nd January Dalton secured the fine Tiger and the next day Kneller and I



A padded Tiger.

joined him, but that day we only managed to get a Leopard. We got a Tiger, however, both on the 26th and 27th, while the 30th proved a red-letter day, the three Tiger we bagged all turning out tremendous fighters. Kneller had an

## A NARROW ESCAPE.

extraordinarily narrow escape. We had surrounded the Tiger who was on the point of charging when the Elephant which Kneller was riding was knocked over by another named Mowla Bux. Luckily Kneller was not much hurt by the fall and of course tried to get back to his Elephant, which by this time had risen. But probably mistaking him for the Tiger, neither his own nor any other Elephant would allow him to approach. At last I managed to get mine to stand sufficiently to allow of Kneller climbing up, though not before he had had, I fancy, as bad a time as a man can well imagine. The second Tiger gave us another surprise. He had been hard hit and seemed to be lying with his head in the water, and we naturally concluded he was dead. This, however, was very far from the case, as Pelkoo, a *shikari*, soon found, for on getting down to measure him, he sprang up as if he had never been touched and charged, and, but for a lucky shot of Dalton's through the spine, would certainly have got home.

### SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The third Tiger also showed a lot of fight. The largest of the three measured 9'-11" and had a 15-inch skull.\*

This day's sport completed the shoot for the time being, and in February Messrs. Trafford, Rome,



Elephants swimming a river.

Cammell, Gordon, Pattison, Kneller and I returned to the same place, whence, after getting another Tiger, we moved camp to Borabisha and bagged two more. At this latter place we had

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\* This Tiger is alluded to in Sterndale's Book, pages 165, 166.

### A RISKY EXPERIMENT.

rather an unpleasant experience with a Buffalo. We managed to get into a herd of about twenty, and in spite of bad shooting knocked over three, the others making of course for deep cover. Intending to make them break, we lighted a fire, which unfortunately took our direction instead of that of the Buffalo, with the result that we had as much as we could do to save ourselves from being burned.

On March 1st, Messrs. Dawnay, Lawley, Cammell, Kneller and I started for Pargaon, whence, after getting two Buffalo, we moved on to Khagrabari. Here Cammell got a pair of Tigers almost with a right and left, but the luck was balanced by our losing on other days two rhino and a Tiger, all badly wounded. Besides Cammell's two Tiger we got in all six Rhino and ten Buffalo.

Towards the end of the same month Kinloch, Dalton and I had a small shoot, killing three Tiger, one Bear, one Buffalo and four Hog Deer.

# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

There was no more big game shooting until December, when Sir Richard Garth, Messrs. E. Hewett, G. Hewett, Southby and Dalton had a small camp, the bag being one Tiger, one Leopard and six Buffalo.

Animal.	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1875	1877	1878	1879	1880	Total for the ten years.
Tiger ...	5		5		28		16	4	2	15	75
Leopard ...	2		...		8		6	4	9	2	31
Rhino ...	2		4		5		15	11	11	7	55
Buffalo ...	5	No record.	9		24		34	10	20	21	123
Bear ...	...		...		...		...	...	...	1	1
Hog Deer ...	30		23		...		49	7	...	9	118
Sambur ...	...		...		...		32	1	4	10	47
Antelope ...	7		2		...		1	...	...	1	11
Barasingh...	10		12		...		13	5	...	...	40
Pig ..	...		...		...		18	6	...	...	24

\* Actual results for these years being lost, the *approximate* bag of big game is given. Deer, Antelope and Pig cannot be estimated.



Horns of a record bull Buft shot in 1881. Measurements around outside of horns  $9'-11\frac{1}{4}"$ , around base of horns  $23\frac{3}{4}"$ .



**Bholi.**

**Hatashu.**

**Shikaris,**

## CHAPTER II.

1881—1883.

Good Buffalo Horns—No. 5 shot as a stimulant—Mahaseer fishing at Haldibari—Seven Elephants mauled by one Tiger—A big day with Buffalo—Some stout fighters.

EARLY in February, Messrs. Ashton, 1881.  
Fraser (now Lord Saltoun), Thomas,  
Turner, A. Apcar, Alexander, Kneller,  
Major Jarrett and I made a start for Camp  
Khagrabari, and a few days later Wilson and  
Dalton joined us. *En route* we picked up a Sam-  
bur, and soon after arrival in camp got a good  
day's sport which included one Rhino, three Sam-  
bur and five Buffalo. One bull Buffalo, shot on  
this day, had an exceptionally fine pair of horns;  
they measured 10'-1½" point to point round outside  
crown, and the base of each horn measured 24".  
One other Rhino got away badly wounded.

The following day, the 16th February, we got  
three more Buffalo, a Hog Deer and a Sambur.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

One old cow gave any amount of fun, charging home and scattering the line with great vigour. Fraser was sent flying across country on Bir Bahadoor, and several others suffered the same ignominious fate. I was at the other end of the jungle trying to get the best of a Sambur Stag when I was sent for to finish this troublesome cow Buffalo off with the "Infant"—a double-barrelled four bore rifle—which I succeeded in doing. She certainly was one of the finest fighting Buffalo I have ever come across.

On the 17th we brought home a Tiger, a Hog Deer and a couple of Pig, a Rhino, three Sambur and three Pig on the next two days, and then, as the district showed signs of being shot out, we moved on to Pargaon. Here our party ran into a tremendous fighter in the shape of a Tiger, for which at the time we were absolutely unprepared. All were quietly looking about for Pea-fowl, when, without the slightest warning, up jumped a

### A TREMENDOUS FIGHTER.

Tiger. Kneller, who had only No. 5 shot in his barrels, let fly at him, and Thomas who next came on him found him savage enough. The beast lost no time in charging, and very nearly made it good. As it was, he got on to the Ele-



One of our Shooting Camps.

phant and made a big hole in his ear before he got his quietus.

Besides small game we only got one Rhino on the 21st, but the 22nd was a good day, the bag

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

consisting of one Rhino, five Buffalo (the two largest cow Buffaloes had horns measuring 10'-6" and 10'-4½") and two Sambhur. In addition to the above, on this and the next day, we landed 26 fish, varying in weight from 2½ to 14lbs.

For the next few days the sport was comparatively uninteresting. We bagged half-a-dozen Buffalo, a few Sambur and Hog Deer, but there was nothing either in their measurements or fighting qualities that calls for remark. We stopped shooting on February 26th. The shooting during March, with which, by the way of big game shikar, so far as I was concerned, ended for the year, is soon told. On the 3rd, Dalton, Kneller, Briscoe and myself took part in bringing a Leopard to book, *apropos* of which I may mention that although I have not recorded the details, the Leopard bagged during the year totalled fifteen. On the 26th, Fraser, Kinloch, Dalton, Kneller and myself had a three-days' shoot near

## AROUND SUKANDIGHEE AND HALDIBARI.

Parokata and accounted for four Rhino, two Buffalo and a Hog Deer. With luck the bag might have been better, as a Tiger charged right through the line and wasn't seen again; a Rhino got away badly wounded, and we saw a Bear in the distance but could not get up to him.

As usual, February saw us again afoot, and on <sup>1882.</sup> the 6th and 7th my party, including General Hughes, Major Cook, Dr. Simpson, Capt. Gordon and Mrs. Evans Gordon, secured near Sukandighee a couple of Tiger, a Hog Deer and a Bear in addition, of course, to small game. A few days later Dr. Simpson and Charley Briscoe bagged a Buffalo at Haldibari; they also pulled four Mahaseer out of one pool in a couple of hours, the biggest scaling 35lbs. and the smallest 15lbs.

Towards the end of the month a large party came with me into camp, amongst whom were Sir Ashley and Sir William Eden, Lawler,

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Schalch, M. Eden, Lord Ilchester, Lord Durham, Simpson, Henry, Gordon and Mrs. Gordon, and Charles Moore. We shot around Garud Haut, Malakata, Mahakulgooree, Parokata and Berbera. By the time the main party left us, which they did on the 4th March after a week's shooting, the bag included three Tiger cub, three Rhino, eleven Buffalo, five Hog Deer, seventeen Sambhur and four Pig. At Parokata we shot one of the biggest Buffalo I have ever seen, measuring 18 hands 1" at the shoulder.

Although, as I have already mentioned, the greater number of our party left on the 4th March, a few remained on until the 10th and added some Sambur, Hog Deer and Pig, together with a couple of Leopard and a Buffalo to what had already been shot.

We made another little expedition to Parokata in the same month, Southby, Gladstone, Browne and Count Seeback accompanying me. We were

### ANOTHER GAME FIGHTER.

out about a week and got a couple of Rhino, five Buffalo (the largest had horns measuring 10'-6"), eleven Sambhur, six Hog Deer and a few Pig. Two other Rhino went away badly wounded, and we saw two Tiger but did not get a shot.

Between the 4th and 15th April, Garth, Mansel, Spragge, Gordon and I bagged four Rhino, thirteen Buffalo (two had horns over 10'), nine Sambhur, three Hog Deer and some Pig, and with this shoot sport ended for the year. The number of Leopard shot during 1882 is eight, but of these I find I have again omitted to record the details of several.

We began well in February by my two cousins <sup>1883</sup> and myself accounting for five Leopard, and a day or two afterwards Dalton and I got two Tiger, and a Buffalo. One of the Tiger showed tremendous sport. The first day he got away altogether ; however, we got on to him again on the second and bagged him, but not before he had

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

badly mauled seven of the Elephants. He was a fine animal, measuring  $10'-1\frac{1}{2}"$  and died as game as a pebble.

On the 18th of February we had our annual shoot,



A Jungle Fire.

our first Camp being at Garud Haut, in which Cammell, Dawnay, Davies Fitzgerald, Lucas, Peck, Thornhill, Kneller and Dalton joined. Some of the party returned on the 15th March, but I and others remained on until the 23rd. The

## A BAD DAY FOR THE ELEPHANTS.

total bagged included four Tiger, six Rhino, twenty-two Buffalo and one Bison, one Bear, fourteen Barasingh, four Sambhur, ten Hog Deer and some fifty fish, the largest of which scaled  $18\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. The Bison was not only the first I have ever seen at Deogong, but also, I believe, the first that has ever been shot so low down as this. One day, the 26th, deserves notice, inasmuch as we got into a herd of Buffalo numbering fifteen and managed to bag eight in spite of a good deal of confused charging. The 2nd of March too produced some good fighters, a Rhino cutting two Elephants badly and a third slightly, while yet a fourth Elephant was gored under the foreleg by a Buffalo. The last Tiger shot proved a big one, measuring 10'-1" and was the largest I had shot up to date.

On April 3rd, I got a Bear and on the 5th and 6th Munro, Dalton, Scott and I bagged a Rhino and two Buffalo. We had a certain



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

amount of bad luck in not getting more, as four Rhino and a Buffalo got away badly wounded ; a couple of Leopard in November completed the total bag for the year.

### RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1881.

Animals.	February 14th-26th.	March 3rd.	March 26th-28th.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	2	...	2	4
Leopard ... ..	...	1	14*	15
Rhino ... ..	4	...	4	8
Buffalo ... ..	19	...	2	21
Bear .. ...	...	...	4*	4
Barasingh ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sambur ... ..	15	...	...	15
Hog Deer ... ..	8	...	1	9
Antelope ... ..	...	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	...	...	...	...

\* Shot in addition during the year, but dates unrecorded.

# RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1882.

Animal.	February 6th-7th.	March 10th.	Feb. 25th, Mar. 5th.	March 10th.	March 12th.	April 4th-15th.	Total
Tiger ... ..	2	...	3*	...	...	...	5
Leopard ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	6†	8
Rhino ... ..	...	...	2	...	2	4	8
Buffalo ... ..	...	1	12	...	5	13	34
Bear ... ..	3	...	...	...	...	...	3
Barasingh ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sambur ... ..	...	...	19	...	11	9	39
Hog Deer ... ..	1	..	8	...	6	3	18
Antelope ... ..	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Pig ... ..	...	...	9	...	3	7	19

\* Cubs.

† Shot in addition during year.

# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

## RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1883.

Animal.				February 8th-9th.	February 12th-15th.	Feb. 18th, Mar. 23rd.	April 3rd-6th.	November.	Shot in addition.	Total.
Tiger	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	...	...	6
Leopard	...	...	...	5	5	...	...	2	2	14
Rhino	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	...	...	7
Buffalo	...	...	...	...	1	23*	2	...	...	26
Bear	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Barasingh	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	14
Sambur	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Hog Deer	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	10
Antelope	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Pig	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	...	...	9

\* Includes one Bison shot.

## CHAPTER III.

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1884—1885.

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Absence of big game—A very mixed bag—Good sport at last—  
A Fighting Rhino—Buffalo driven by Buffalo—A ten-foot Tiger—  
Shooting at Dal Dalia—A bad time for "Gulzar Piari."

**B**IGNELL and I commenced the year by bag- 1884.  
ging a couple of Leopard and shortly  
afterwards, accompanied by Shillingford,  
started on an elephant catching expedition and  
shooting combined. Kheddah operations and  
shooting do not go together, as you are not expected  
to fire off a gun if there are herds of elephants  
about. For some time luck was dead against us,  
and for ten days we brought to book neither Tiger,  
Leopard, Rhino nor Buffalo. Indeed I don't  
think I have ever seen so large a tract of shoot-  
ing country so destitute of big game. We got  
one Bear, a fair number of Hog Deer, a few  
Sambhur and some Pig. On the 17th February,

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Colonel Keith Fraser joined us, and the 19th gave us a curious bag, consisting of one Pig, one Pea-fowl, one Partridge, one Porcupine and a Python that measured 15'-5."

We moved camp on the 21st from Ramshahai



Vultures after a Kill.

Haut to Lower Tondoo and brought down our first Rhino on the 24th. The following day Colonel Money and Moore joined us and the Earl of Mayo and Neville Chamberlain on the 27th.

### SOME BLANK DAYS.

Bad luck still pursued us, and though we moved camp first to Dhoobjhora and subsequently to Upper Tondoo and Ambari, it was not until the 6th March that we shot anything better than Deer and Antelope. On this date, however, we got a Rhino, and two more on the next. Five others got away, a couple being badly wounded. The 8th and 9th were blank days, and on the 10th we moved on to Nagrakata, but sport did not improve, a Bear and a Rhino being our only reward in the way of big game, though we viewed afar off two other Rhino and a wild Elephant. On the 16th and three following days we moved camp first to Haldibari Haut and then to Falakata, arriving at Theamari Ghat on the Raidak river. The last named place found us at last on our own good ground, sport began speedily to look up, and during the next week we got two Tiger (one measuring 9'-6"), ten Rhino and two Buffalo. One Rhino, the biggest seen for a long time, got away, I am sorry to say, badly wounded; among

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

those we bagged were some great fighters. One charged Bignell four times before we got him and another charged me, but I knocked him over with a lucky shot. Mayo too killed one in the act of charging home. The last five Rhino and the two Buffalo were shot from Parokata, where we had moved on the 23rd. On the 25th we stopped shooting, but Bignell, Charley Briscoe and I began again on the last day of the month, and between that and the 9th April the party got five Leopard. On the 18th General Wilkinson, Major Cook, Gordon, Charley Briscoe, Khitindro and Jackson came out with me for a five-days' shoot near Madhoobhasha, of which one Tiger, one Leopard, two Rhino and two Buffalo were the main results. One of the Buffalo was a tremendous big chap, standing 6'-3" at the shoulder and measuring 14' 3" from nose to end of tail. He took a lot of killing, carrying thirty shots before he dropped.

## A WOUNDED BUFFALO'S RETURN.

In May, Bignell, Briscoe and Khitindro joined me in a three-days' shoot round Falimari and Deogong, the result was not much—one Rhino and a Buffalo together with three Barasingh and a couple of Pig. The Buffalo gave rise to a very curious incident. After being badly wounded, he rushed away and we followed up his tracks at once, but we had hardly travelled a mile before we saw him coming back to us for all he was worth, though he looked thoroughly done and likely to fall at any moment. We soon found out what was the trouble. Another Buffalo was driving him back to us. The fresh Buffalo, however, caught sight of us, turned and bolted, while the wounded one came straight on and charged as he got near. I just managed to finish him before he got home. We then went after the other beast and wounded him badly, but he saved his pelt and got away.

A Tiger shot by Charley Briscoe and Khitindro concluded the shooting for the year.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

1885. Towards the end of February, General Sir Frederick (now Earl) Roberts, General Stewart, General Godfrey Clark, Dr. (afterwards Sir Benjamin) Simpson, Colonel (now General) Pole Carew, Neville Chamberlain, Hume, Gordon, Major Garth, G. Garth, Bignell and myself set out. We shot round about Chota Bhalka, Deogong, Dal Dalia, Falimari, Bara Bhalka, Barbara, Parokata, Rasik Bhil and Mahakal-gooree, the shoot lasting just three weeks. The main items of the bag were ten Tiger, two Leopard, seven Rhino, sixteen Buffalo and three Bear. We also got some goodish fishing (Mahaseer) besides a fair amount of Deer and Antelope. Some changes took place in our party before we returned. Generals Roberts, Clark and Stewart only stayed a few days, while Viscount Parker, Col. St. Quinton, General Paget, Knyvett and Jamieson joined us. The first Rhino was knocked over by Viscount Parker at 150 yards with a .500 express, a bull Buffalo on the same day



The first Tiger shot in 1885.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

(March 1st) showed a lot of fight, goring two Elephants. We had of course our share of bad luck. On the 8th, for instance, we lost two Buffalo and a Rhino, although they all three went away very sick. The next day again we came across some twenty Buffalo, and hit several very hard but bagged none at the time, though we picked up three afterwards. The 10th, however, proved a good day, one of the two Tiger we got at Falimari showing splendid sport, and as it turned out, we were only just in time for him. Arriving at the ground towards evening, we caught sight of the Tiger walking across from a fringe of scrub to a big deep patch into which he got before anyone could get a shot. We had a lot of trouble getting him out, and only succeeded at last with a couple of barrels of No. 3 shot. He showed himself for a moment, but met with such a warm reception that he bolted back and mauled a pad Elephant. He then broke back through the line, but the "in" howdah Elephants caught him and

### A RECORD LEOPARD.

finished him. A very fine Tiger in all respect. He measured 10' over all. 6'-10" from the tip of his nose to the root of his tail, head 17½", girth 51", round the head 34", biceps 29", forearm 18¾".

Near Deogong, on the 16th March, a great big bull Buffalo gave us plenty of fun. We were looking for a wounded Rhino when we put him up, and he proved game from start to finish. Parker's and Garth's Elephants had each to stand a charge, and the former got gored. He had some twenty shots in him before he dropped, two of which were from a 4-bore and four or five from an 8-bore.

On the 17th March at Dal Dalia I knocked over a Leopard, which still, I think, holds the record at 8'-4". We also bagged a couple of good Tiger and a fairly good bull Buffalo. The following day brought us a Rhino and Buffalo, both very fine specimens, the total length of the former measuring 13'-2", and girth 110", the biggest

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

mentioned in Rowland Ward's Book being 12'-10" and 105" respectively. The Buffalo's measurements were as follows :—Total length 14', length



**The Rogue Buffalo.**

from tip of nose to root of tail 10'-9", girth 109", round the neck where it joins the head 5', round the neck in front of the shoulder 8'-4", height at shoulder 18 hands 2"; we also got two Bear.

## A GAME TIGRESS.

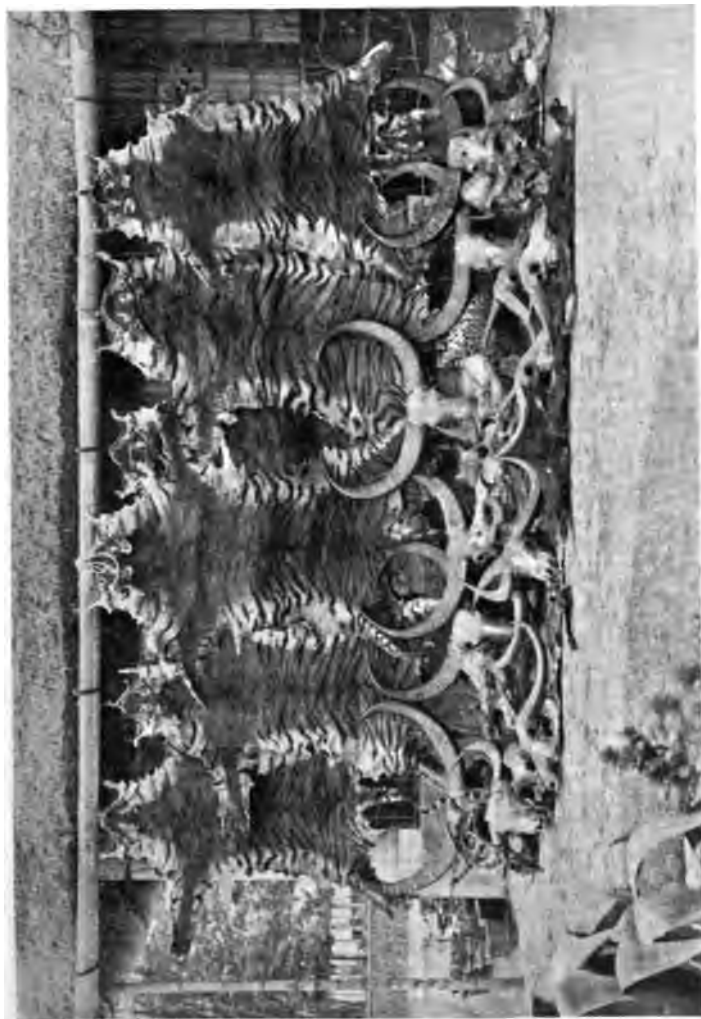
On the 21st we stopped shooting for the time, commencing again on the 30th March. On this occasion I was accompanied by C. H. Moore, C. R. Hills, A. Evans-Gordon and Charley Briscoe. We got two Tiger, a male and female, and two Buffalo the first day. The Tiger, which we found and killed some way off from the kill, fell to Moore's rifle. The Tigress was put up quite casually. She got away at once, but we followed her up into the same patch of jungle in which the fine Tiger was shot on the 10th March. We got her out without much difficulty, but on being pursued by three howdahs she stopped and charged C. Hills, mauling the Elephant, "Gulzar Piari," rather badly on the off-hind and near-fore. The Elephant, in trying to get rid of the Tigress, very nearly threw Hills out. However, she was finished soon after this. A good day's sport as we were in camp before 3 p.m.

On the 31st we moved to Rossik Bheel where we got a few Deer and Antelope, and then on to

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Guigaon where we found three Bear in the grass close to camp, of which we bagged two. The jungles here were quite empty of Rhino or Buffalo. On the 3rd April near Jaldoa and Rossik Bheel, we killed a Rhino and two Buffalo. A very fine Cow with Calf was wounded, but a threatening thunder shower drove us home.

On the 4th April luck was a bit against us. We bagged two Rhino, but a third got away badly wounded, as did also a magnificent bull Buffalo in spite of a long, stern chase. We also started a Tiger, but he cleared out before the howdahs could head him. One more Rhino on the 6th concluded the year's shooting.



The Bag, 1885 Shoot.



# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

## RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1884.

Animals.	January.	Feb. 14th, Mar. 25th.	March 31st.	April 3rd, 8th, 9th.	April 18th- 22nd.	May 19th-21st.	June.	Total.
Tiger ...	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	4
Leopard ...	2	...	2	3	1	...	...	8
Rhino ...	...	16	...	...	2	1	...	19
Buffalo ...	...	2	...	...	2	1	...	5
Bear ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Barasingh ...	...	9	...	...	...	3	...	12
Sambur ...	...	9	...	...	1	...	...	10
Hog Deer ...	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	16
Antelope ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2
Fig ...	...	15	..	...	5	2	...	22

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1885.

Animals.	Feb. 28th, Mar. 31st.	Mar. 30th, April 6th.	Total.
Tiger .. ...	10	2	12
Leopard ... ..	1	1	2
Rhino ... ..	7	3	10
Buffalo ... ..	16	4	20
Bear ... ..	3	2	5
Barasingh ... ..	5	...	5
Sambur ... ..	5	...	5
Hog Deer ... ..	12	...	12
Antelope... ..	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	...	1	1

## CHAPTER IV.

1886—1888.

A good beginning with Buffalo—Five Rhino before lunch—  
Great day at Chengtimari—Phenomenal luck—Another red-letter  
day in the Sal Forest—An enormous Tiger.

1886.

OUR first camp this year was pitched at Garad Haut, and shooting began on the 12th February, by which time a largish party had assembled. Captains Harbord and Bignell, Prince Esterhazy, Major Gordon, Bignell, Charley Briscoe and Gojendro ( Junior ) were all present at the start, Colonel Upperton, accompanied by the two Russian Officers, Colonel Timler and Prince Maslof, Major Mansel, and Moore joined us later on. We were out just a month, and of the bigger game brought back nine Tiger, five Bear, nineteen Rhino, twenty-eight Buffalo and one Bison. On the 14th we got two Buffalo, both fine

### A RECORD COW BUFFALO.

beasts, and one of which had the longest pair of horns I really think I have ever seen. They measured  $11'-6\frac{1}{2}"$ .



Horns of Record Cow Buffalo, measuring  $11'-6\frac{1}{2}"$ . Shot February 14th, 1886.

A blank day on the 15th was followed by a magnificent day's sport with Rhino near Rossik Bheel and Chengtimari or rather half a day's, for

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

we bagged five Rhino before luncheon. I do not think this record has been beaten. Some of them showed great sport, charging through the line, and one of the new Elephants got cut. The largest was 17 hds. and  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch at the shoulder, 12'-6" in length and had a girth of 112". On the 17th again we had another good day's sport and padded one of the heaviest Tiger I have come across. He measured 9'-9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " over all, and from tip of nose to root of tail 6'-7 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Height at shoulder 39", girth 54", upper arm 26", fore-arm 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", head 36". He fought very gamely. We must also have seen at least a dozen Buffalo, of which we bagged two, but others, I fear, went away wounded. We got a Bear this day as well. The Tiger and Bear were shot in the Berbera jungle and the Buffalo at Falimari. After this day's sport we gave the Elephants a rest on the 18th, and were rewarded on the 19th by another great day at Chengtimari, the bag consisting of four

### PHENOMENAL LUCK.

Rhino and four Buffalo, two Barasingh and a Hog Deer, all got before lunch.

Such luck as this could not be expected to continue, and, as a matter of fact, for some days on it fell off very considerably. We got a Tiger at Dorko on the 20th and two on the 22nd and two more on the 23rd, adding to this good bag three Rhino on the 24th. Our luck was phenomenal; we accounted for a Tiger on the 25th, Buffalo on the 27th, and a good Tiger on the 28th in the Horseshoe jungle. The Tiger killed in the Horseshoe jungle played old Harry with the line, though he never actually got home. He charged about sufficiently, however, to put the mahouts in a tremendous funk, and it ended in Bignell ( Junior ) and I having to bring up the line. We had to fire a lot of shot cartridges before the beast was turned out. To give the Elephants a rest, we had a day's fishing on the 1st March on the Sunkos. Mrs. Gordon, who had

### SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

joined the party some days before, landed a 14lb. Mahaseer, while Gordon, Mansel, and myself only caught one small fish each.



The Rhino shot by Mansel.

The 5th was principally occupied in beating for Tiger, but we drew blank, which was the more unfortunate, as eight bullocks had been killed

### GOOD RHINO SHOOTING.

two days before by a Tiger or Tigers, and we might reasonably have counted on putting "Stripes" out. We were, however, fortunate in getting one Rhino and a Buffalo.

We bagged a Tigress and two cubs on the 8th, one of the latter giving great fun, but the 9th in the Sal Forest Reserve was a real red-letter day, bringing us five Rhino, all got after lunch, and two Buffalo. One of the Rhino was the best I had shot up till then, and exceeded the big one shot on the 19th February by several inches. His measurements were :—Total length 13'-10", body 11'-8", girth 136", height at shoulder 18 hds. and  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch.

The next day was also good. We got into a herd of seven Buffalo and killed four, one being a very fine bull. Two of them charged but did not do any damage.

The 12th, our last day out, made a grand finish



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

for the shoot. We bagged seven Buffalo at Tara Bagh and put up a Tiger on the way back to camp. But he got through the line of beaters and we lost him. Charley Briscoe caught seven fish on the Sunkos, a few hundred yards from camp, and Mansel, who had been shooting with us, fished on the way back and landed a good fish.

Later on in the year, assisted by Charley Briscoe, Mansel, Simpson and Garth, I got another Tiger, a Bison and seven Leopard.

1887. Bignell, Gojendro (Junior) and I had a bit of luck in the beginning of February and bagged two Leopard within a mile of the Palace. The big shoot did not commence till the 18th. The Earl of Annesley, Marquise de Breteuil, A. Norman, Sir B. Simpson, L. Daniell, Percy Simpson and Bignell were with me from the start, while Ridgway, Gordon, the Count de Breteuil joined us on the 20th and Cameron on the 3rd March, but the latter only stayed three

## A ROUGH CUSTOMER.

days. We stopped shooting on the 9th March, by which time the bag included eight Tiger, four Rhino and six Buffalo, not quite up to the average of previous years, but we had some good sport nevertheless.

On the first day, from our camp at Garud Haut, we got a Tigress, a heavy one and savage enough. Before we came across her we picked up a dead Leopard which she had probably killed, as there were two tooth-marks on the head. On being turned out, she showed a lot of fight, charging me twice and Percy Simpson once.

On the 21st February we had a good day's sport, getting a Tigress at Chuckchuka and a Rhino and three Hog Deer at Guigaon. The Rhino (we saw others, besides the one we bagged) gave a lot of trouble, as we couldn't get them to break cover. Bignell was charged by the bull Rhino and another was knocked over by Percy Simpson, but he got away and we lost him. A

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Our first Rhino, 1887 Shoot.

#### COUNT DE BRETEUIL'S ELEPHANT MAULED.

Buffalo also escaped, badly wounded, so our luck was by no means of the best. At Chota Bhalka, on February 22nd, we came on a Tiger quite unexpectedly, and were lucky enough to bag him. He measured 9'-9" in length. We got three Rhino at Deogong on the 24th, one of them measuring 18 hands at the shoulder. For the next few days we had no luck at all, and on the 27th, just as we were changing camp to Haldibari, *khubber* of Tiger came in as it usually does, I notice, when one is especially unprepared.

However, we managed to get a few Elephants together and killed a Tigress. This did not seem to change the luck, as the next two days were blank, but on the 2nd March things looked up a little, and we got three Buffalo. The 3rd gave us a Tigress, a very game one. She charged and got home on the Count's Elephant, biting him badly over the left eye.

On the 4th, close to camp, we killed two Tiger,

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

a cub and two Bear. One of the Tiger was a magnificent beast, and though not actually the longest I have shot, is the biggest I have ever



Skinning the 9'-9" Tiger shot on sand Feb. 1885.

seen. His total length was 10'-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", body 7'-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", upper arm 29", fore-arm 21", girth 54" and head 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". He stood 44 $\frac{3}{4}$ " at the shoulder. He must

### ONE OF MY RECORD BEASTS.

have weighed close on 600 lbs., but in those days we did not weigh our Tigers. These last two measurements—his head and his height—constitute, I think, a record. At any rate "The Records of Big Game," which gives an illustration of the skin of this animal and quotes the measurements, has no head so big on a Tiger which stands  $44\frac{3}{4}$ " at the shoulder. He was an enormous animal, heavily built with a short tail.

This big Tiger however finished our luck for the year, and though we stayed out a few days longer, we got nothing more in the way of big game. One way and another, this was about the worst year I had yet had. We saw lots of game, but they—especially Rhino and Buffalo—were very wild, and the country probably wanted a thorough rest. During 1887 Jotindro shot thirteen Leopard to his own rifle and twenty others were bagged.

Bearing in mind the necessity for giving the 1888.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Rhino and Buffalo a rest, during this year, we did not shoot any of the former at all and only four of the latter. These were shot at Majerdabri on 25th February, in company with Sir Alec and Lady Wilson, Knyvett, Gordon and Mrs. Gordon. On the same day we saw three Tiger, of which we padded two, both fine beasts, but the biggest—a grand animal—got away unscathed. For the reason I have already given, we had no large shoot this year, but many small ones, in which, besides those already mentioned, Bignell, Godley, Briscoe, Sant, Jackson, Gojendro, Hendley and others took part.

The bag under these circumstances was, of course, smaller than usual, and consisted principally of six Tiger, fifteen Leopard and, as I have already mentioned, four Buffalo. A Python measuring 15'-4" is also perhaps deserving of mention.

Very few out of the way incidents occurred. At Falimari, on the 23rd April, I shot a very fine

#### A SHORT YEAR.

Tigress, measuring 8'-7", but the tail was only 2'-7" long, and had either been bitten or burnt off. A scar running right along the back perhaps rather points to the latter. Had she not been mutilated, she must have measured nearly 9'.

The only other extract from my game book that seems of interest was the case of a Leopard at Daua Gooree on the 18th July. I got a snapshot at him just as he jumped into the river. He sank immediately in deep water, but was found floating next day and brought in.



# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

## RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1886.

Animal.										Feb. 1st- Mar. 1st.
Tiger	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Leopard	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7*
Rhino	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Buffalo...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Bear	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	5
Barasingh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	18
Sambur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hog Deer	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Antelope	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pig	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

\* Shot during year also one Bison and 2 Barking Deer.

# RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1887.

Animal								Feb. 8th.	Feb. 18th- Mar. 9th	Total.
Tiger	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10
Leopard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	35*	37
Rhino...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Buffalo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	6
Bear ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Barasingh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Sambur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	13
Hog Deer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	11
Antelope	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pig ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3

\* Shot during year also 5 Kakur.

# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1888.

Animal.	Feb. 23th- Mar. 10th.	April 15th	April 19th- 30th.	June.	July.	Sept.	Total.
Tiger ...	2	1	2	1	...	...	6
Leopard ...	...	...	1	2	3	2	8
Rhino ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Buffalo ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bear ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Barasingh ...	1	...	3	...	...	...	4
Sambur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hog Deer ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Antelope ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pig ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1

Also 76lbs. of fish (Mahaseer).

## CHAPTER V.

1889—1890.

Crocodiles—Shooting on the Sunkos—"Kate" and "Kennedy" mauled—Jogin's narrow shave—A game Tigress—Two records up-to-date—Bear at Haldibari—Mrs. Gordon kills a charging Tigress.

THIS year, starting on 12th February, the <sup>1889.</sup> Earl of Scarborough, Lord Galway, Crawley, Dudley Leigh, Sir Benjamin Simpson, Lennard, Currie, Bignell, Gordon, Hendley, Colonel Luard and myself made up the party. Colonel Boileau joined us the following day, while Count Hoyos, Lord Ancram, Eyre-Coote, Count Szechenyi, J. P. Hewett and George Irwin increased our gathering a week later; on the other hand, Scarborough, Galway, Crawley and Dudley Leigh left us on the 17th February. The rest of us, however, shot on until the 18th March, the pick of the bag by that time being:—Nine Tiger, eight Bear, two Leopard, five Rhino, nine Buffalo and a bull Bison.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

We commenced shooting at Takuamari and got a Tiger and a Bear the first day, both good animals, the former measuring 9'-10" and the latter 6'-7". The next day spent in trying after Buffalo in the Horseshoe jungle, proved a blank. A



**An Elephant and his Fodder.**

Tigress, killed at Falimari on the 14th, gave a lot of trouble before we padded her, though she didn't succeed in doing any damage.

The 15th, 16th and 17th brought us no luck, and all we bagged was a couple of Crocodile, one

## BEAR AND CUBS.

measuring  $16'-3\frac{1}{2}"$ . A very fair bull Rhino was knocked over on the 18th, but two got away badly wounded. We had a good day's sport on the 19th, killing a Tiger and a Bear. The Tiger was  $9'-8"$  in length, and was a very heavy beast. He fought well before we brought him down, and got home on Crawley's Elephant. We did not do much for the next few days, and on the 24th moved on to Haldibari. Here we got a couple of Buffalo along the banks of the Sunkos, and four more on the 25th at the same place. At Bara Hamua on the 27th, Hoyos shot a good Tiger with one shot, and I got a Tigress the same day, but neither showed much fight. The following day we killed a Bear and found two very young cubs holding on to her with teeth and claws. Blank days again till the 3rd March, when we got a bull Bison standing  $17$  hands  $2\frac{1}{2}"$  at the shoulder. We might also have got Rhino as we wounded two and saw others, but luck was not of the best, nor did it really change

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

for the better for some time. In the Forest Reserve we got two Buffalo and another day just missed finding a big herd. At Bamoner Shali, I shot a Tiger—not a large one—and a couple of Bear. A fine bull Rhino fell to us at Moshamari, as did also a Bear which came out of the same patch. Except a Leopard and a Bara Singh shot at Deogong, we got nothing more till the 15th March at Berbera. Here we got an extraordinarily light coloured Tiger, measuring 9'-7". I hit him through the spine first shot. The death of this Tiger pleased the villagers greatly, as he had quite recently killed seven cows. We bagged a Bear the same day on the other side of the Sunkos.

We had a first class day's sport on the 16th, at Khagrabari, padding two fine Tiger, the one 9'-11" and the other 9'-9".

At first things did not look at all promising. The jungle was so small that I really expected nothing out of it at all. No sooner, however, did



Big bull Rhino. 1889. Shoot.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

the beat begin, than a shot told me we had found. Almost immediately after a second Tiger got up right beneath my Elephant, but I was so intent looking out for the first one that I did not notice the second, and this one led us a rare dance before we had done with him. Bignell hit him but too low and far back to stop him ; this made him very savage. He crossed over the *nullah* into a very thick patch, and then the ball began ! He first mauled " Kate " and then " Kennedy " twice, very nearly getting right on to the top of the pad. As it was he bit a piece of the *gadlah* off. Jogin, who was on " Kennedy ", thought it was about all up with him and told me he could have touched the Tiger with his foot. However, all's well that ends well, and we got him all right. The curious thing about the whole affair was the two big Tiger getting up practically together. They were evidently brothers. I have only once before heard of this happening.



The effects of a heavy Lunch.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Another good day followed, and this time it was Rhino and Buffalo. We got three of the former and one of the latter, all in the direction of Rossik Bheel. We also saw an old Rhino lying in the water, and Bignell and I tried a stalk. But before we could get within shot, he got up with a grunt and went. I fancy our Elephant disturbed him. A Tigress on the 18th brought the shoot to a finish. *Khubber* of a kill had been brought in in the morning, but on arrival at the place the kill looked older than two days. Moreover, the villager, whose property it was supposed to be, declared it was not his bullock, so the only thing left was to beat the most likely looking patches. Out of the very last of these the Tigress came out full of fight, and immediately distinguished herself by mauling "Rung Bahadur." But she paid for it very soon after. Coming across her was, I expect, a piece of pure good luck, as she was very thin, and did not look as if she had had a meal for a long time



Luncheon group, 1890 Shoot.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Nine Leopard were shot later on in the year, but none were out of the ordinary.

1890. Gordon opened the year by bagging a Leopard close to the Cutcherry at Panga in Rangpore, and on the 5th February, Wood, Bignell, Montriou, Hendley, Gojendra and myself killed two Tiger, both within ten miles of Cooch Behar. One of these was very savage and charged the line before he was wounded. Later on he managed to scratch "Rung Bahadur" and also got home on my Elephant, when, for some reason or other, my gun refused to go off.

The big shoot commenced on the 14th February, and the following came into camp with me at Majerdabri:—Lord and Lady Claud Hamilton, Hughes, Pole-Carew, Brasier-Creagh, Pakenham, Gordon and Mrs. Gordon, Capt. and Lady Florence Streatfield, Bignell and Mrs. Bignell, Mrs. (Lady) Prinsep and Sant. Two days later, Sir Ben. Simpson, Hills, Turner, Grove and

## OUR PARTIES.

Garth joined us. As a party we did not remain complete long. Lord and Lady Claud Hamilton left on the 18th, Lady Florence Streatfield, Mrs. Prinsep, Mrs. Bignell and Brasier-Creagh on the 20th, Turner and Pakenham on the 22nd, Charley Gordon, Mrs. Gordon, Pole-Carew and Streatfield on the 6th March, the two former, however, returned for a few days. To make good our losses, Sweet and Nirmal arrived on the 17th February, while General Auchinlech, G. Apar, Hendley, Gojendro, Chevalier Scheibler, General Hills and Charley Hills joined us at intervals. Shooting ceased on the 19th March, but some of us remained on for a few days' fishing in the Sunkos, and the sport well repaid us. The bag included nineteen Tiger, seven Bear, six Rhino, seventeen Buffalo and one Bison.

We began well by padding two grand Tiger, one on the 14th—our first day—at Takuamari measuring 10' and weighing 520lbs. and the

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

other on the Sunkos River two days afterwards, which measured  $10'-2\frac{1}{2}"$  and weighed 500lbs.

As regards the first the weight was probably under-estimated, as we found by chance that a



The 10-foot Tiger.

Sambur, which had been weighed at the same time, really scaled 717lbs. instead of 622lbs., the weight first given. If a similar mistake was made with the Tiger, he might proportionately



Pakenham's 10'-2½" Tiger.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

have pulled down 540lbs. The second Tiger was the longest I had shot up to date. Rowland Ward mentions both these Tigers in his "Records of Big Game". The day intervening between the two Tiger was by no means destitute of sport. A bull Buffalo gave us a long chase, but we got him after lunch, and we also saw a couple of Rhino, one of which was wounded by Gordon, but he got away at the time, though he was brought in some days afterwards. We had a lucky find of a Tigress and two cubs at Falimari on the 18th, while in line across country, all three of which were accounted for and on the following day at Deotakata, I got the best Tigress I had shot so far. Total length 9'-3", body 6'-3", girth 41", biceps 22", forearm 16", head 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", height 34". Mr. Inverarity shot one in the Terai a couple of inches longer, but I know of no other as large.

We bagged six Buffalo on the 21st at Turkani, and a Tiger at Chota Bhalka on the 24th. The

## LUCK WITH BUFFALOES.

latter measured 9'-8" and was very heavily built. He didn't, or rather couldn't, show fight, as I was lucky enough to finish him with one shot.

At the same place two days later a Tiger very



The 9'-3" Tigress

nearly bested us by lying low. Twice we beat the jungle without any one seeing a trace of him. But as the *khubber* was good, we put the line

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

through a third time and our perseverance was rewarded.

On the 1st of March at the north end of Baradogla we bagged a bull and two cow Buffalo. The bull was a good 'un, standing 17 hands 2" at the shoulder and measuring 13'-10½" from tip of nose to end of tail.

At Dal Dalia we had a bit of bad luck in a Tiger slipping away into the Reserves before we could cut him off, but there was a set-off in our bagging the best stag I have seen about here. He weighed 717lbs.

The next day, luck was in our favour. When in line near Baradogla, a Tigress got up and I banged at her. She went away as if nothing had happened, but afterwards, on taking up the line again, I came across her stone dead. She had been shot clean through the lung.

Luck did not desert us on the 5th March either, for we got two Rhino. On the way back

### MRS. GORDON'S PROMPTITUDE.

to camp we killed a Bear. She had two small cubs with her, both of which we captured. We shifted camp to Haldibari the day after this, and on the 7th came across three Bear, all of which were bagged.

The 10th gave us a Buffalo and the 11th a couple of Tiger. This latter was a real good day. The first Tiger was shot about two miles from camp and the second—a Tigress—at Dal Dalia. The Tigress very nearly got home on "Moti Pershad," but Mrs. Gordon, with an excellent shot, knocked her over in the nick of time. General Hill was luckier than usual and landed a Mahaseer of 16½ lbs.

On the 12th in the Sunkos Reserves we got a Rhino and a Bison. The latter was quite unexpected, as he was the first I have ever seen in these reserves.

The 14th was a capital day. We left camp at 11 o'clock and by 12-30 had shot a magnificent

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Bear and a fine Tiger. The Bear, which Rowland Ward mentions, measured 6'-10" over all, body 6'-2", girth 54½", biceps 26", forearm 18½", head 35½", height 3', and weighed 423lbs. The Tiger measured 9'-6" and weighed 481lbs. Two Tiger on the 15th, but the result was disappointing nevertheless, as we ought to have got four. One, near our camp, got away into the Reserves before we had formed line, and another, a Tigress, did us also, but this time by hiding herself in a small nullah covered with long grass, and so escaped altogether.

A couple of days later we had a little compensation for this bad luck. As we were starting off a Nepaulese boy ran in to say that he had just seen a Tiger close by. We hurriedly put a line in, but could not make the beast break. Eventually he charged back through the line, very nearly getting on to Bignell's Elephant *en route*. Gordon, however, made short work of

### GORDON'S TIGER.

him. He was a fine beast, measuring 9'-10" in length.

Two Bear on the 18th and a big Tigress, 9'-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", with two cubs, on the 19th at Adlaguri, brought the shoot to a good finish.

In April, May and June, nine Leopard were shot, nearly all by Gordon, Bignell, Sant and myself. The first one I shot on April 2nd came very near the record, being 8'-2 $\frac{1}{3}$ " in length and another killed on the 10th June measured 7'-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Both were very heavy beasts.

# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1889.

Animal.	February 12th- Mar. 18th.	April.	June.	July.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	9	...	...	...	9
Leopard .. ...	2	4	2	3	11
Rhino .. ...	5	...	...	...	5
Buffalo ... ..	9	...	...	...	9
Bear ... ..	8	...	...	...	8
Bara Singh ... ..	6	...	...	...	6
Sambur ... ..	3	...	...	...	3
Hog Deer ... ..	2	...	...	...	2
Antelope ... ..	2	...	...	...	2
Pig ... ..	1	...	...	...	1

Also one Bull Bison and one Barking Deer.

# RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1890.

Animal.	January 7th-23rd.	February 5th.	Feb. 14th-Mar. 19th	April.	May.	June.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	2	19	...	...	...	21	
Leopard ... ..	1	...	3	4	3	11	
Rhino ... ..	...	6	...	...	...	6	
Buffalo ... ..	...	17*	...	..	..	17	
Bear ... ..	...	7	...	...	...	7	
Bara Singh ... ..	...	5	...	...	...	5	
Sambur ... ..	...	7	...	...	...	7	
Hog Deer ... ..	...	5	...	...	...	5	
Antelope ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Pig ... ..	...	9	...	...	...	9	

\* Also one Bison.



## CHAPTER VI.

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1891.

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The shoot starts well—Curious Tiger at Deotakata—Wild bull Buff in a tame herd—A remarkable war dance—Fine bull Bison—Python with a Barking Deer inside him.

1891.

ON the 14th February, the same date as last year, a large party set out for the Chukchuka jungles. At first it was composed of Harry Hungerford, Brasier-Creagh, Lord Fred. Hamilton, L. Daniell, Streatfield, Gordon, the Maharani (my wife), Bignell, and myself. Lady Florence Streatfield, Mrs. Toomey, Mrs. Gordon and Mrs. Bignell also accompanied us. A good many changes, of course, occurred before shooting ceased. Some left and others joined, the latter including Mr. (Sir Edward) and Mrs. Sassoon, who stayed with us about a week, Lord Ailsa, Charley Harbord, Vere, Cumberlege, the Maharaja of Mourbhanj, Kiddell and Ehlers.



The 10'-8" Tiger, shot on the first day of 1891 Shoot

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

This was the longest shoot we had yet had, and we did not break up until well on in April. The big game bagged was as follows :—Twelve Tiger, three Leopard, five Rhino, three Bear, fifteen Buffalo and a bull Bison.

We began very much as we did last year with two big Tiger, the one shot on our first day out measuring 10'-2", and the other, got on the next day, at Bara Bhalka, being 10'- $\frac{1}{2}$ " in length.

Both the 16th and 17th gave a Buffalo, the second a fine old bull that charged Mrs. Gordon with great resolution. She stopped him, however, very effectively. The day after this, spent in the Horseshoe jungles, was a thoroughly disappointing one, and that, in spite of *khubber*, both of Tiger and Buffalo. We worked for both, but the Tiger wasn't at home, and the Buffalo, a bull, got away wounded. This was all before lunch, after which we went after the Buffalo again, but no good came of it. A Rhino also got away wounded

#### FOLLOWING UP.

later on in the day, and darkness prevented our following him up.

The 19th was hardly a better day, for though we bagged two Buffalo, we lost two others wounded, as well as a Rhino which I knocked over but didn't, I suppose, hit in the right place. We had a long day on the 20th trying to get on to the wounded animals, but saw nothing of them. However, we bagged a Tiger at Chota Dal Dalia, not by any means a big one. On the 22nd we got another at Kookoor Chubi, this time a goodish one—9'-6" in length and weighing 450lbs. He meant mischief, but was not given a chance. The next few days, although we had a moderate amount of sport, were singularly devoid of incident, so I will get on to the 5th March, by which date we had moved camp to Garad Haut. We got a Tiger and Tigress this day, the one at Bara Dal Dalia and the other at Guigaon. The Tiger showed fight and mauled one of the Elephants

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



A line in the 1890s Shoot.

### AN OLD OFFENDER.

but not badly. He was a very lucky find, as we put him up while beating for Rhino.

This was not the first time we had been after either of these animals; the Tiger, indeed, had done us twice before, so I was precious glad to get them at last.

But for one Barasingh, the 6th was a blank day, and the 7th entirely so. On the 8th we had our first beat at the south end of Pachkoldoba without result. Going on to Rossik Bheel, two Rhino turned up and one came in my direction but a long way off. Kala, the *shikari*, persuaded me to fire, though I did not myself think it good enough. My second shot hit him, and he answered to it immediately by swinging round and breaking through the line. On beating for him again, he twice broke through, and when we got him eventually, he must have had, I should think, twenty-five bullets in him. Altogether we were lucky to bag him. During one of the beats we put up a Tiger but he got away.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The second day after this at Bara Hamua we bagged a medium-sized Tiger, remarkable for nothing but clawing an Elephant.

We shot a curious Tiger at Deotakata on the 14th. He had very heavy pads and a long tail, but quite small otherwise; one tooth was knocked out by a bullet. Total length 8'-5½", body 5'-4", length of tail 3'-1½" He didn't break until the very last moment, and then started off like a Leopard with hardly anything more than a grunt.

On the 16th we bagged a bull Rhino, and nothing more in the shape of big game, though we worked hard enough for it—until the 22nd.

We changed camp, by the way, on the 17th to Haldibari.

The 22nd gave us rather a curious experience. We had gone out to the Forest Reserves on rather indifferent *khubber*, only to find,

## A TIGER'S CURIOUS DANCE.

after beating, that it was worth nothing. On our way home we came across a herd of tame Buffalo with a wild young bull among them.

At Bara Hamua on the 24th we padded a 9'-8" Tiger. He charged down on Mrs. Gordon, but she stopped him, and Gordon then fired, after which the Tiger performed a ridiculous kind of war dance, first on his head and then on his feet before we finished him.

On the 26th I was lucky enough to get a splendid bull Bison with one shot in the neck. Rowland Ward gives this beast as the second record, but as only the height at the shoulder is mentioned in the book, sportsmen may perhaps be interested in noting the other dimensions.

Length.	Body.	Girth behind Shoulder.	Girth at top of Ridge.	Largest Girth.	Neck where it joins body.	Neck behind the ears.
ft. in.	ft. in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.
12 2½	9 5	116	120	132	108	60
Horns from Tip to Tip round outside.		Base of Horns.	Across from Tip to Tip.		Height at Shoulder.	
72 in.		20½ in.	20½ in.		18 hands ¾ in.	



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Between the 2nd and 14th April two Rhino and two cow Buffalo were bagged at Gordongunj, where we had moved camp. Of the latter, one a very fine beast, nearly got home on me, but I



**Mrs. Gordon's 9'-8" Tiger.**

fancy she didn't like the look of "Indrajit's" tusks ! Her measurements, which were very large for a cow, are worth setting down. Length 12'-6", body 9'-8", girth 94", greatest girth 112",

### ANOTHER RECORD BEAST.

height 17 hands 3". Her hoofs were enormous and measured  $7\frac{3}{4}$ " across. The bull got away wounded unfortunately. In addition to the Rhino and Buffalo, we killed, during the same period, four Sambur, three Hog Deer, two Barking Deer, a Pig and a Python, the last 15'-5" in length and with a full grown Barking Deer inside him. In this connection it would be interesting to know what a 30' Python could do. Whether the grass was too dry or the supply of water too scarce, for some time past there seemed to have been but little game in the country. For several weeks previously we had only shot every other day. The ravines and gullies were worked, but in these a line is useless, and one must either shoot on foot or with a single Elephant. The country round about was lonely, so we determined to make the 14th April our last day in camp.

# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

## RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1891.

Animals.						• February 14th to April 14th.	Up to 26th July.	Total.
Tiger	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	12
Leopard	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	8
Rhino	...	...	...	..	..	5	...	5
Buffalo	...	...	...	...	...	15 One Bison as well.	...	15 and 1 Bison
Bear	...	...	...	..	...	3	...	...
Barasiagh	...	...	...	...	...	27	...	27
Sambur	...	...	...	...	...	28	...	28
Hog Deer...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	6
Antelope	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
Pig	...	...	...	..	...	20	...	20

• Two Barking Deer and two Pigmy Hog were also shot.

## CHAPTER VII.

1892.

Heavy jungle but good sport—The Do-Mohana bag—A big bull Buffalo—Another ten-foot Tiger—"Kennedy" in trouble again—"Ram Pershad" bolts at a critical moment—Sambur or Barasingh.

**F**EBRUARY, as usual, saw our shooting <sup>1892</sup> party out in camp. This year we had with us to commence with :—His Excellency Lord Lansdowne, H.R.H. Prince Christian Victor, Lord de Vesci, Harbord, Valletort, Scheibler, Sir Benjamin Simpson, Bignell, Mrs. Bignell and Miss Lewis. The first day's shoot—the 22nd—at Bara Dogla was blank, though a Rhino which got away wounded was picked up all right on the 24th; on returning to camp we found that Lewis and the Grenfells had arrived.

The next day at Sapkata was a good one. In the first beat we put up a Tigress and killed her

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Our Camp, Garad Haut, 1894 Shoot.

#### AT SAPKATA.

without much trouble. A Rhino also broke and he was badly hit, but managed to get away at the time before the stop was able to get round. We picked him up afterwards, however, so there was not much to complain of. A second Tiger got up soon afterwards, but he saved his pads. No one was to blame for this, the jungle being so heavy that it was very difficult to get any Tiger out of it at all. The Tigress measured 8'-6" and weighed 261lbs. Besides the Tigress and Rhino, three Barasingh, a Hog Deer, and a couple of Antelope were also accounted for.

We had a still better day at Do-Mohana on the 24th, bagging two Rhinos—a bull and a cow, six Barasingh and a Hog Deer. Both Rhino were killed before lunch. The bull was a real big one, measuring 12'-3" in length, body 10'-6", girth 124", largest girth 144", round neck, where it joins head, 72", height at shoulder 17 hands 3½". Lady Lansdowne and Lord William Beresford joined us in camp on this date.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Valletort had a Tiger all to himself on the 25th, a young one but of a fair size—9'-1" in length and standing 38½".

The 26th was rather a disappointing day. We got *khubber* of one Tiger early in the morning, and of another later on. The second one, which we started after first, turned out to be a Leopard and we got him. The other Tiger wasn't at home or at any rate we saw nothing of him.

The following day we had a long jaunt in the direction of Pachkoldoba after Buffalo, but though we got one cow and saw plenty of fresh tracks, we never came up with the herd. During the day we killed, besides the cow, a Leopard, Bear and Pig. The 28th was a day of rest for the Elephants, and several visitors made a move. The Viceroy, Lady Lansdowne, de Vesci, Beresford, Grenfells and Valletort left, while General Viscount Frankfort and Powney joined us. We had no *khubber* of Tiger on the 29th, though

#### ADDITIONS TO OUR PARTY.

we got a couple of Leopard, so I moved camp to Bara Bhalka on the 1st March.

Beating round Turkani on the 2nd, we bagged a Rhino when we had almost given up all hopes of getting one. Harrison, Lord Borthwick and Brown now joined our camp. Shooting in the same direc-



Wounded bull Buffalo before being finished off, 1892 Shoot.

tion on the 3rd, we killed a nice young bull Buffalo with fair horns, and the next day, on the other side of the Sunkos, north-east of our camp, we bagged a still better one. The head of the latter, cut off quite close to the horns, weighed 196lbs. A Sambur and two Barasingh were



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

also shot. March 5th gave us two Buffalo, a bull and a cow, together with a Barasingh. These were shot in the south-east jungles. The day after this Prince Christian and Harbord left, and we gave the Elephants a day off. Shooting in the north-east jungles again on the 7th and 8th, we bagged two cow Buffalo the first day, but had rather bad luck in not getting another Buffalo and a Bear, both going away hard hit. The next day we killed a bull Buffalo and two Barasingh, and learned on our return home that on the very day we last changed camp a Tiger had killed a cow in the jungle !

A long dismal day was the 9th, spent after imaginary Buffalo and Rhino. We never saw either the one or the other the whole day, though there were plenty of fresh tracks of both.

Harrison, General Frankfort, Powney and Borthwick left us on the 10th, and the same day

### MY LARGEST BULL BUFF.

we got two cow Buffalo in the Forest Reserves, north of camp.

For several days the sport had not been of the best, but the 11th brought me a great stroke of luck. We were shooting near Jamba Mech's village when I came across and shot a magni-



**Washing Day.**

ficent bull Buffalo. The full measurements together with an illustration of the head are given in the "Records of Big Game," but as many may not have a chance of referring to that book, I give them here. His full length was 13'-5", body

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

10'-3", girth behind shoulder 104", largest girth 128", round neck, where it joins head, 63", round neck, where it joins body, 92". The horns, with meat, skin, etc., cut off from near the shoulder, weighed 25 stone. Horns between tips measured 53" and their widest sweep 56". Height at shoulder 18 hands. Weight of one of the forefeet, cut off at the knee joint, 16½ lbs. This bull was one of the largest, if not the largest ever shot in this district. Scheibler and Simpson photographed him when standing at bay. The day following the end of the big bull brought the shoot to a close, but as has often happened before, we had a good wind-up in the shape of a ten-foot Tiger, bagged in Dal Dalia. He had killed seven cows, and gave a lot of trouble till we killed him, charging home on "Kennedy" as per usual!

We had another nine days' shoot, commencing on the 25th April. McLaughlin, Gojendro, Jotindro, Sant, Sujey, Suresh and Baxi, all accompanied me.



The Party, 1892.



Elephants crossing the Sunkos.

#### CHANGE OF CAMP.

The first day was occupied in a wild goose chase after Buffalo, but we saw none. The next day we saw five Rhino in all. I got one and badly wounded another, which I ought also to have bagged, but just as I was about to finish him off, my Elephant, "Ram Pershad," made a bolt of it. This was in the Forest Reserves, where we got four Barasingh the same day.

We had another long day after Rhino in the Reserves again on the 27th, but saw none, though we came across a certain number of fresh tracks. We got three Barasingh, however, and a couple of Pig. The 28th was a worse day, our reward only being one Barasingh and three Pig.

The day following, *khubber* was brought in at half past five in the evening that a Leopard had tried to bone a calf, but had been driven off by the villagers. We went out and got him. He was a good beast, measuring 7'-6" in length, body 4'-9", and weighed 10 stone, though he had

# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Some fine Bull Buff Heads



10' 1" 9' 6" 10' 9' 11" 9' 8 1/2" 10' 3"

## END OF THE '92 CAMP.

no food inside him. This is quoted in R. Ward's book.

We changed camp on the 30th to Chelapata and killed two Barasingh and three Pig *en route*.

The 1st and 2nd of May were both unlucky, disappointing days. We put up three Rhino on the 1st, all of which got away, and I didn't get a shot myself. While on the 2nd both a Rhino and Tiger got safely off; darkness was really the cause of Stripes being able to escape.

It has almost become a rule for the last day of a shoot to be a good one, and the 3rd May was no exception. We began by putting up a Tiger in the first beat in the Reserves, but he escaped us. Then a Bear was turned out and shot. After lunch we left the Reserves and came across a Tigress in the very first patch we beat. McLaughlin bagged her all to his own cheek. We broke up camp on the 4th May.



## SHOOTING IN COUCH BEHAR.

We, that is, Harrison, Warneford, Brown, Bignell, Jotindro, Sant, Rivers Worgan, Gojendro, Percy Briscoe and myself went out in November for a week's shoot, bagging a Tiger, one bull and three cow Buffalo and a curious beast, Sambur-like in body, but with the horns of a



**Striking Camp.**

Barasingh. The measurements of the Tiger were : length 9'-7", body 6'-7", girth 50½", height 40¾", head 39", upper arm 28", forearm 18", and weighed 492lbs. A very massive, heavy Tiger. The bull Buffalo was also a fine young beast.

We found the jungles too large to beat properly with a line of thirty Elephants.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1892.

Animals.	Feb. 22nd -Mar. 12th.	April 25th-May 3rd.	Up to 24th August.	November 22nd-28th.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	3	1	...	1	5
Leopard ... ..	4	1	6	1	12
Rhino ... ..	5	1	...	...	6
Buffalo ... ..	11	...	...	4	15
Bear ... ..	1	1	...	...	2
Barasingh ... ..	16	13	...	1	30
Sambur ... ..	1	...	...	...	1
Hog Deer ... ..	3	1	...	...	4
Antelope... ..	2	...	...	...	2
Pig ... ..	7	11	...	...	18

## CHAPTER VIII.

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1893.

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Shooting from Mahakalguri—Rhino on the Raidak—A record Tigress—The Hamua Veteran—Good day's sport near Deogaon—Some disappointing days—Luck with a Bison—An afternoon with Tiger.

1893.

WE began business this year with a good long shoot, lasting from the 11th February till the 20th March. The Astleys, Harrisons, Warneford, Lewis, and Miss Lewis, Bignells, Miss Sen, Col. Tillotson, Daniell, Brown, Valletort, Lambton, Shields, and the Maharani either started with us or came out to camp very soon after. Jotindro, Galeffi and Sujey joined us in March, and most of those mentioned remained to the end.

The camp was pitched at Mahakalguri, and the first day we put up a couple of Buffs, but didn't succeed in coming to terms with them. We also



Tiger shot on the Banks of the Raidak.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

saw fresh tracks of Rhino and bagged a Barasingh. The day after this, close to our camp, we padded a very fine Tiger that showed a certain amount of fight, and considering we had no *khubber* whatever, we were very lucky in getting him. He measured 9'-10", body 6'-7½", biceps 26", forearm 19½", head 36", height 39", girth 52", and he weighed 512lbs.—a massive beast and full of beef.

It poured with rain all the 13th and we did not go out. The 14th gave us two bull Buffalo, and two cow Buffs, and on the 15th we had a long day after Rhino, but saw none. We came across some wild Elephants and I had a long shot at one, but he was too far off to do any good. The presence of these Elephants by the way quite accounts for our seeing no Rhino. This day a Sambur and three Barasingh were shot.

On the 16th we had a long jaunt after a Tiger, but did not even see his foot-marks. A Leopard

### FRUITLESS BEAT AFTER RHINO.

was put up and got away, and by the end of the day we had only one Barasingh to our credit.

Just at the edge of the Reserves and north of our camp we had a long beat after Rhino on



**Camp Garad Haut.**

the 17th, but though we saw fresh tracks, we never got up to them. In the last beat we got a Tiger, 8'-8" in length.

We had another long beat after Tiger the next day, and we had nearly given him up, when he was

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

turned out of a small patch quite outside of the original jungle. A (Sambur) stag was also shot which stood 13 hands 1" at the shoulder, and scaled 682lbs. They were both killed close to camp.

In the Forest Reserves, on the Raidak, we got a very fine bull Rhino on the 19th. He stood 18 hands and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the shoulder, body 10'-5", length with tail 11'-9", girth behind shoulder 114", biggest girth 141", round neck near shoulder 10", neck close to head 68. Four other Rhino broke back through the line, so it was really a bit of bad luck not getting more than one.

However, the 20th was a real good day, and we brought home a very fine Tigress and a bull and cow Rhino. The Tigress beat the previous record in length by half an inch, measuring 9'-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Her other measurements were: body 6'-2 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", girth 41", head 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", forearm 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", upperarm 23", height 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", weight 343lbs. We put her up at the



Lunch in the bed of the Jorai



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

end of the second beat ; several shots were fired at her but only one hit her. During the first beat two Rhino broke back, but after lunch we came on them again, and I got both of them with a right and left. The cow Rhino, however, very nearly got home on me.

The next day we were unlucky in two Buffs getting off. I had a long shot at one, but don't fancy I did much damage. We had some consolation though in killing a Sambur (stag) that weighed 743lbs.—the record up to date—and measured 41" round the neck.

All this time we had been shooting in different parts of the Forest Reserves, and on the 22nd, north of the Haldibari road, we bagged a Rhino, four Barasingh and a Hog Deer. The Rhino was got in the line. After lunch it came on to rain and we started for home. On the way back we saw plenty of fresh tracks of Buffs and

### A GOOD LEOPARD.

Rhino, but not the animals, barring the one shot. There were a lot of Deer about.

The morning of the 23rd we had a rest for man and beast, but went out after lunch and got a Leopard.

We moved camp to Haldibari on the 24th, and the moment we reached camp had *khubber* of a Tiger. He turned out to be a Leopard, but a fine beast at that, measuring 7'-8½" in all and with a body of 4'-10".

The 25th we drew blank, and on the 26th we gave the Elephants a rest which they stood a bit in need of.

A disappointing day the 27th, while the 28th and 1st March were hardly less so. On the former we had a fruitless chase after what I believe were quite imaginary Rhino and Buffalo. We shot a couple of fairish Barasingh on the 28th, but a bull Buffalo got away badly wounded,

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



The Raidak Tiger.

## BUFFALO AND RHINO.

and on the 1st March we got absolutely nothing, though we saw several Buffalo on this last date. West, Burgess, G. Burgess and Carnegie joined us in camp.

A very old Tiger was bagged at Hamua on the 2nd. He was blind of one eye, and all his teeth were worn down to nothing. He measured  $9\frac{1}{2}$ ".

The Astleys, Daniell and Colonel Tillotson left us on the 3rd. We killed three Buffalo and another went away very badly hit. I believe there were eight of sorts put up altogether. We also saw two Rhino and wounded one, but they both got away. The jungles were really too large to take in one line, or we must have got more than we did.

A little bit of luck came to us on the 5th in the shape of a Rhino which turned up in a small patch where no one expected him.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The 6th was occupied in hunting a Tiger, which proved to be a Leopard after all, and he got away. But for a Barasingh, the day would have been absolutely blank.

We had a shot at a Bear the next day without result, and as by this time I had come to the conclusion that it was no good shooting in the forests any longer, we moved camp to Garad Haut on the 8th. The change was an improvement.

The day after our arrival, *khubber* of a Tiger from the Deogaon direction came in. We went after him, but he wasn't at home. However, before evening we had bagged a Rhino, three Buffalo—all bulls—and a very lengthy Leopard, measuring 8'. The Rhino and the Buff were all killed after lunch. One of the Buffalo was a very fair specimen, standing 17 hands 2" at the shoulder. Besides what was shot, a cow Buffalo made off badly wounded, and a Rhino escaped by charging back through the line.

## BETTER LUCK.

We saw lots of other game of sorts and had in fact a really good day.

The 10th was a blank, though we got *khubber* of a Tiger which we didn't see, and had a shot at a Leopard.

I got a Tigress at Bhalka Balasee on the 11th, but a lot of beating had to be done before she was brought to book. We saw no signs of her in either the first or second beat, and I began to fear it was a case of *Chala gaya*. To improve matters it then came on to rain. After lunch we beat another heavy patch for her; she wasn't in it, but clean outside, where she had been watching some cows. Burgess put her up, and she broke at once back into the patch. There we got her. She measured 8'-7 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", body 5'-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and weighed 301lbs.

The 12th was a rest day for everybody. *Khubber* of Tiger came in the evening, so we started next morning and killed a fair Tiger 9'-3" long,

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Lunch in the Forest.

### BAD WEATHER.

body 6'-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and weighing 392lbs. He was knocked over and practically done for, first shot.

On the 14th we tried the Bhalka Reserves, but the day was disappointing from start to finish. As soon as we got on the ground it began raining hard, so we had to sit tight for a bit. Later on we saw fresh tracks of Rhino, Buff and Tiger, but came up with nothing. After lunch we had another try, but no result, though some Buffalo tracks were very fresh. We stopped shooting early, as we were a long way off camp and the weather was very threatening.

No big game was killed on the 16th, though, on our way home from Guigaon towards the end of the day, a Rhino broke back through the end of the line. Three Sambur and four Barasingh were bagged. We had a general shoot near camp on the 16th and got a Leopard. At Bara Dogla, the following day we had a great piece of luck in getting a Bison, as they seldom come down so low as this.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

There were two others with him. A Rhino was put up in the first beat and fired at. He got away, but I believe he was badly hit, and probably lying dead somewhere.

We tried Bara Dogla again on the 18th, securing a Rhino and a Barasingh. The Stag weighed 40 stone 3lbs. On getting back to camp we heard that a Tiger had been seen by villagers to the north of us. We went out after him the next morning, but didn't come across his tracks even.

On the 20th we crossed the Sunkos to Majerdabri. We didn't start till late in the day, and then went after a bull Buffalo, but never saw a sign of him, though the afternoon made up for all. We didn't lunch till 4 o'clock, and between that and dark killed three Tiger—a big slice of luck and a splendid finish for the last day's shoot. Our next camp was at Chelapata and the party consisted of Sir Charles Elliott, Nolan, Currie, General

### OUR NEW PARTY.

Lance, Boileau, Elliott, Dyne, Lister, Lowis, Forbes, Bignell, McLaughlin, Baxi and myself.

The first day, the 20th, we saw any amount of game, but only managed to bag one Buffalo, one Bear with two cub and a Barasingh. Another young Bear was caught. The she-Bear weighed 287lbs. It was bad luck not doing better, as we actually saw ten Buffalo and five Rhino.

The 21st was another unlucky day. There were lots of fresh Rhino tracks about, but we could not get up to them, and we also saw two Bison, but never got a shot. All we did get was a fair-sized male Bear, scaling 386lbs., and a Sambur.

Sir Charles Elliott, Nolan and Boileau left on the 22nd, on which date only a Sambur was shot. The day after this we got a couple of Leopard. We might perhaps have had a Tiger if the villagers had not snatched away a cow from him ; so, of course, he wouldn't stay. No luck again on the 24th, though five Rhino were put

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

up and tracks of Buffalo and also of a large Tiger were seen.

The remainder of the shoot, which finished on the 27th and ended up in rain, is soon told. We had a goodish day on the 25th, killing a Bear weighing 367lbs., five Barasingh and a Hog Deer. A Rhino fell to us on the 26th, and another went away badly wounded. We also got some Deer, both on this day and on the 27th.

# RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1893.

Animals.	Feb. 11th- Mar. 20th.	April 10th- 27th.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	11	...	11
• Leopard ... ..	4	2	6*
Rhino ... ..	7	...	7
Buffalo ... ..	10	1	11
Bear ... ..	...	4	4
Sambur ... ..	9	4	13
Barasingh ... ..	25	10	35
Hog Deer ... ..	9	6	15
Antelope ... ..	...	...	...
Pig... ..	9	9	18

And one Bison shot on 17th March.

\* A great many more Leopard were shot in this and the next year. The actual dates have not been preserved, but the total number and the names of those who shot them have. They will be alluded to in the yearly summary of 1894.

## CHAPTER IX.

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1894.

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The Samerdanga Jungles—A large (and high) cow Rhino—*Tame* ending to a hunt after Buffalo—A beat for Tiger proves prolific—Breakdown of the launch—A Samerdanga Tiger makes a record—Buffalo at Tikri Kila.

**S**HOOTING in Assam in February 1894, our first party was made up as follows :—

Lord William Beresford, Lowis, Lord Wolverton, Sir Benjamin Simpson, Lord Dalrymple, Gordon, Count Scheibler, Mackinnon, Bignell and myself. Hewett, Scott, Count D'Harnoncour and Herbert joined us a day or two later.

We saw lots of beasts the first day, the 27th; among them two Rhino and ten Buffalo. We bagged a Rhino and two Buff, but had a bit of bad luck in losing another Rhino and Buffalo, both of which went away wounded. A couple of

### SOME POOR DAYS.

poor days' sport followed, on the first of which we only saw one bull Buffalo and he escaped us, while the second was mainly spent hunting unsuccessfully after Rhino, but we only saw one cow Buffalo and that we got.



Our Camp at Dudnath Pahar on the Brahmaputra.

The 2nd of March was a real good day. In the very first beat, at Samerdanga, we put up two Rhino, but, for the time being, both got away, though one was hard hit. As a matter of fact, arrangements were a good deal upset quite unnecessarily, and it was a long while before we could

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

get things straightened out. However, in the next beat both Rhino were put up again, and this time one was bagged and the other knocked bang on to his knees ; though he got away that day in spite of it all, he was picked up some days later. Just before lunch *khubber* was brought in of a Tiger, or rather a Tigress, as it turned out to be, and we went out and got her without any difficulty. She measured 8'-8" from tip of nose to end of tail. The Rhino jungles at Samerdanga were quite the most unbeatable I had ever seen, thick *khagra* interlaced with wild rose bushes.

We went after a Tiger on the 3rd, that was said to be quite close to our camp, but we didn't come across him, though Bignell thought he caught sight of him in the first beat. The line was certainly broken towards the centre, and it is possible he may have slipped back. I sent out Singbir *shikari* to have a look round, and while we were at lunch he came back to say that he



View of the Brahmaputra from the Hill behind our Camp.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

had just seen a bull Buffalo in a small patch hard by. We weren't long getting out after him and bagging him. He was a fair beast and stood 16 hands 3" at the shoulder. On the way home we got a cow Buffalo.

Shooting near the same place on the 4th we got a Buffalo in the first beat, and soon after came across the Rhino lying dead, that Bill (Lord William Beresford) and I had hit in the Samerdanga jungles. She was a little too high for me to go up to, but Bholi measured her—17 hands 3½" at the shoulder—an exceptionally large cow.

The next day we crossed over to the Kaziakata Chur—the one nearest our camp—where tracks of three different Tiger had been seen. The first beat resulted in nothing, and in the second Hewett saw a Tiger and got a snapshot, but though we beat for him again, we couldn't put him up. After lunch we had another try in the same patch,



9-10½" Tiger shot March 5th.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

and, just at the end of the beat, he jumped up quite close to me, and we had him padded soon after. He was a fine Tiger, measuring in length 9'-10 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", body 6'-9", girth 49", upper arm 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", forearm 19", head 35", height at shoulder 36". He looked as if he hadn't eaten anything for a long time and only weighed 399lbs.—very little for a Tiger of his size. We were very lucky to get him, as the jungle was heavy with *jhow* and thick grass, and almost unbeatable in consequence.

On the 6th we beat about in the jungle next to the Assam High Road for a Tiger which had killed two cows a couple of days before, but didn't see him that day or the next, though we came across fresh tracks.

We gave the Elephants a rest on the 8th, and soon after lunch *khubber* was brought in of a Tiger having killed two of our milch-cows. It turned out, however, to be a Leopard which we



The two Tigers bagged on March 10th.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

bagged. He was rather a fine beast, the total length being 7'-6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and body 4'-9".

The 9th was not only a blank but a real rotten day at that. We commenced by starting after a family of four Tiger we had heard of, but we never got to the ground, as on our way there a "Khubberia" came up to say that he had seen a bull Buffalo which we might shoot *en route*. We spent the greater part of the day looking after the beast, and when we found him he turned out to be a tame one with a rope round his fetlock joint. My feelings may be imagined !

On the 10th most of the party started off early in the morning for a shoot in one of the adjacent churs, only Lewis and myself remaining in camp in hopes of hearing something more of the Tiger we had been after the day before, and we were right, for *khubber* came in and we went out after lunch. There were only five Elephants with us, but a Tiger got up in the very first beat. He

#### FOUR TIGERS IN A BEAT.

slipped past Lowis and lay up in a patch close by. On beating it, to my astonishment and joy, out came four Tiger, two of which we bagged. One—a Tigress—was a fine beast, and measured



Our Launch on the Brahmaputra.

8'-9" in length, with a body 5'-9". It was very bad luck the others not being with us; with a couple more guns we should probably have got the lot.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

bagged. He was rather a fine beast, the total length being 7'-6½" and body 4'-9".

The 9th was not only a blank but a real rotten day at that. We commenced by starting after a family of four Tiger we had heard of, but we never got to the ground, as on our way there a "Khubberia" came up to say that he had seen a bull Buffalo which we might shoot *en route*. We spent the greater part of the day looking after the beast, and when we found him he turned out to be a tame one with a rope round his fetlock joint. My feelings may be imagined !

On the 10th most of the party started off early in the morning for a shoot in one of the adjacent churs, only Lowis and myself remaining in camp in hopes of hearing something more of the Tiger we had been after the day before, and we were right, for *khubber* came in and we went out after lunch. There were only five Elephants with us, but a Tiger got up in the very first beat. He

The first of these was a small  
 steamer of the type known as a  
 tug, which was seen on the 10th  
 of June. It was a small vessel  
 and was seen at a distance of  
 about 10 miles. It was seen  
 on the 10th of June.



The small tug seen on June 10th.

8'-9" in length, with a 100-hp. engine. It was very  
 bad luck the other not being with us; with a  
 couple more guns we should probably have  
 got the lot.

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## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The day following this, while shooting along the foot of Dudnath, three Tiger were put up in the first beat, but we only bagged one. He, however, gave some fun, charging about and very nearly getting home on Bignell's and Mackinnon's elephants.

Our launch broke down on the 12th on our way to Haribhanga, and we had to wait till the big steamer got up steam, which took the best part of two hours. In the first beat, five Buffalo were put up, out of which we got two—a bull and a cow.

The 13th brought us a fine bull Buffalo standing 16 hands 2" at the shoulder, but we saw nothing else the whole day; but on the next, *khubber* came in of a Tiger that had been heard roaring in the Samerdanga jungles, just about the place where we had beaten the two Rhino out on the 2nd. The *shikari* very nearly put me off going, by declaring that it was impossible to get a Tiger out of that patch. Fortunately I did not

### A LENGTHY TIGER.

listen to him, as we managed to bag the longest—though not the heaviest—Tiger I had shot up to then. In the first beat he charged through the stops, but, luckily for us, went into a small patch, where we killed him. His measurements are given



One of my largest Tigers—10'-3".

in the "Records of Big Game," but, for reasons already given, it may be convenient to set them down here. Length 10'-3", body 7'-1½", girth 52", upper arm 29", forearm 19½", head 36½", height 3'-4½", weighed 487lbs. He was an

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

oldish Tiger, and all the stripes on his body were more or less double. Bignell found a fresh killed Buffalo, partially eaten. Considering how difficult it was to beat the jungle, it was certainly a great piece of luck our getting him. The night before we shot this Tiger, Bill (Beresford) and Hewett had left the camp. A great pity, as things turned out, for they would both have enjoyed being in at the death of so fine a beast. The following evening young Gouripur joined our party.

The next day or two was occupied in changing camp from Dudnath Pahar to Khalsamari, which we reached on the 17th. This place is at the foot of the Garrow Hills on the other side of the Brahmaputra.

We commenced shooting at Kaee Mari the day after our arrival, and brought back to camp a Tiger and a Rhino ; a second Rhino was also shot, but he was not picked up till later, though there is no doubt that he was killed at the time and

### “STRIPES” AT HOME.

passed over by the line. It was on the way home that we came across the Tiger in a fine piece of grass. There were evidently three there, a Tigress and cubs, but somehow or other the Tigress got away, and it was too late in the day then to continue beating.



Fixing “Hyder Ali’s” Howdah.

The 19th was a blank, though we got *khubber* of Tiger at two different places—Khalsamari and Haribhanga. We looked for them, of course, but neither was at home. We got *khubber* of a bull Buffalo on the 20th, but could not find him where

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

he was said to be. Eventually, however, we put one up—possibly the same one—and this we bagged. There were plenty of fresh Tiger tracks, and we actually came on a fresh killed Deer, but we never got a sight of the Tiger, though he could not have left the kill more than a quarter of an hour before we came across it.

Again on the 21st we got news of Tiger in two different places—Soniter Par and Haribhanga. The first one beat us altogether. Indeed, judging from the burnt up state of the country, there was precious little cover to hold anything. The *khubber* regarding the second Tiger sounded very indifferent, nevertheless we got on terms with him all right and bagged him. He was 8'-11½" in length. The first Tiger, judging by his tracks, must have been a fine beast. He had killed a good sized Buffalo and dragged it some distance.

## LAST DAY OF THE SHOOT.

The next day at Tikri Kila we put up fifteen Buffalo and bagged a bull and three cows. A Bear was also shot in the same beat.

We went on to Kae Mari on the 23rd, and here several Buffalo were put up, of which we got two. Two Bear were also seen, but both these disappeared mysteriously. A third Bear came out close to a gallant sportsman and managed to make good his escape.

The 24th was our last day's shoot. It was a general one all round the camp. Three Barasingh and a couple of Pig were bagged, and more perhaps might have been got, but for the wind which made it impossible for us to mark beasts moving in the grass ahead.



A good Boar.

# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

## RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1894.

Animals.										Feb. 27th- Mar. 24th.
Tiger	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Leopard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*
Rhino	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Buffalo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Bear	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sambur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Barasingh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Hog Deer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Antelope	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pig	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

\* During 1893-94 besides those shown in the summaries, one Tiger and 24 Leopard were shot by the following sportsmen :—Lewis, Mackinnon, Briscoe, De la Fosse and Ashton.

## CHAPTER X.

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1895.

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Assam again—Heavy Tiger padded—"Rampershad" mauled—A miss at ten yards—Bad luck with a Bison—Buffalo and Rhino at Bhuiapara—Successful fire tactics—Rhino cow's record horn—A game Buffalo—The big bull Rhino.

OUR first shoot this year was again in Assam, and, as usual, in February we started for our camp, which had been pitched at Simlaguri. Captains Harbord and Firman, St. Clair, Lord Elphinstone, Sydney-Parker, O'Donnell, Seton-Karr, Hugh Fraser, Lowis, N. Sen, Colonel Allan Gardner and McCabe accompanied me.

We began on the 20th with an absolutely blank day, seeing nothing but tracks, though next day we came across twelve Buffalo and three Rhino. Of these we only bagged two Buffalo, while two others and a Rhino got away



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

wounded. A Sambur was also accounted for. The 22nd gave us two Bear and three Sambur, all shot close to camp.

A fine heavy Tiger was padded on the 23rd. He had no chance of showing fight, though he got



Breakingup Camp at Simlaguri.

up and tried to charge when we all thought he was done for. He measured from tip of nose to end of tail 10'-1", body 6'-11", girth 51½", upper arm 26½", forearm 20", head 37", height at shoulder 36¼", round root of tail 13½", weight 496lbs.

### TIGER IN HEAVY JUNGLES.

We had a long day after Rhino and Buffalo on the 24th, and bagged one of the latter, but the jungles were simply impossible. Next day, shooting in another direction, they were very little better; however, we succeeded in killing a fine Tigress and a Leopard. The Tigress was wounded in the first beat, but got away into another patch, where we found her. She was very game and got home on "Rampershad" before we had done with her. She measured 8'-10" in length and weighed 296lbs. Considering how heavy the jungle was, it was a bit of luck getting her. The Leopard measured 7'-6".

Another good Tigress, measuring 8'-7" and weighing 302lbs., was bagged the following day, though I really think the jungles were worse than before. Heavy *null*, full of *fasan* (quicksand) and intersected by nullahs, they looked impossible, and how we managed to get her to show herself is a riddle to me even now.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The 27th was another long and almost fruitless day spent after Buffalo and Rhino. One cow Buff was the only result besides a Sambur. No doubt we had some bad luck, but the *shikaris*



Assam Jungle.

were all at sea and seemed to know nothing about shooting with a big line.

Two more disappointing days had to be put up with before we got a stroke of luck. The 28th was a regular blank. *Khubber* was brought in of a

### "MISSED" AT TEN YARDS.

Tiger having killed two cows the day before, but though it sounded good enough, we neither found him at home nor even saw any fresh foot-prints along the nullah. We had intended devoting the 1st March to a good rest for man and beast, but this arrangement was upset by a man bringing in *khubber* of Tiger. We went out at 3 p.m. and found her all right, but the beast bested us completely. She galloped back past me, not ten yards off, and got away!! It certainly was not an easy shot, in spite of her being so close, but I ought to have bagged her all the same.

Early in the morning of the 2nd *khubber* of a kill close to camp was brought in, and we went out, found and knocked a Tigress over in the first beat. She was 8'-10" long and weighed 307½ lbs.

We then had a try for Bear and got two—a male and a female. The larger Bear's measurements were :—Total length 6'-7", body 6', girth 49",

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

head 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", upper arm 22", forearm 18". All three big beasts were shot before one o'clock.

The next was another good day, a Tiger and two Buff—a bull and a cow—being bagged. *Khubber* came in early and the Tiger—which Parker knocked over—was at home all right. A good beast, 9'-8" in length and 444lbs. in weight. Both Buffalo were got after lunch. The bull was a fair size, standing 16 hands 3" at the shoulder. Horns 9'-7" and 19" at base.

Some quite uneventful days succeeded, during which camp was shifted to Bansbari. On the 7th, Dick-Cunyngham (the late Colonel) joined us. Before he arrived we had already finished two beats in which nothing had been put up and were moving off to the Rhino ground, when suddenly, from behind us, up jumped a magnificent Bison, but he was out of range before we could get a shot. He must have been lying asleep in a small patch on the left of the line, and at one time the



Assam Shoot, 1895

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Elephants were probably within ten yards of him, so it was a bit of real bad luck not getting a chance at him.

On return to camp we heard of a kill close to camp, though further enquiry showed that the kill had not been dragged into the jungle. Early next morning Ashton woke me up to tell me that Boli *shikari*, who had gone out to see the kill, had come across the Tigress in a small patch about twice the size of my tent. We got on pads at once, there being no time to put on howdahs, and went out. Beating through the patch the first time we found nothing, though one of the mahouts fancied he saw something moving in the grass. We then beat back and this time she broke forward all right. Several shots were fired and she was certainly hit, but she still kept going until we lost sight of her in the burnt grass. As we were looking about, suddenly Dick-Cunyngham came right on top of her, and before you could say "knife," she was on the Elephant's head,

### RHINO BREAKS THE LINE.

striking at the mahout. Fortunately the Elephant managed to chuck her off, and McCabe finished her on the ground. She was a good sized Tigress, measuring 8'-8" in total length.

We changed camp to Bhuiapara on the 9th, and on the 10th had a nice day with Buffalo and Rhino. The Buffalo were put up in the third beat, and two cow—one with fine horns—were knocked over, but the bull, though fired at, got away. There were, I believe, some eight Buff in all. As we were trying to get on terms with the bull, a Rhino was put up, and he also got through the line, so after lunch we made a big line to try for him again. The line had hardly begun to move when the Rhino charged back through it, straight past Seton-Karr, who put four bullets in him as he passed. He then broke out into the open, where he was received with a general fusillade and knocked over. He stood 18 hands 1".



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

I was lucky next day in getting a fine bull Buffalo in a small patch, who stood 17 hands 1" at the shoulder. Several Rhino and Buffalo were put up, but the jungle was too thick for shooting purposes, and we got nothing else that day but the bull.

Thanks to a suggestion made by Boli *shikari* to set fire to the jungle, the 12th, which might have been a blank day, turned out a real good one. We were beating an enormous jungle that really required a couple of hundred Elephants, when up jumped a Rhino and got away. Boli then set fire to that part of the jungle in which he had gone, and we hurried on and surrounded it with howdahs. These tactics proved most successful. Three Rhino and two Bear came out ; two Rhino were bagged at the time, and the third, which was hard hit, was picked up some days later. A Bear was also wounded but got away. In addition to the Rhino, a cow Buffalo was shot the same day.

**SPORT IN CAMP.**



**A Tussle.**



**Vanquished!**

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

On the 13th we didn't get away from camp till half-past-ten, and in the first beat two, or possibly three, Rhino were put up, but all got away. After lunch, however, the luck changed, and one Rhino and a bull Bison were bagged in the first beat. Two Rhino came out to me and one I knocked over. But though the other was hard hit, he got back to the jungle, and thinking that the line would bring him out again, I took no further trouble about him. What he actually did was to charge the line, and though he was fired at, he got through all right, more's the pity. The Rhino that was bagged had the largest horn for a cow that I have seen or shot,  $16\frac{1}{4}$ " frontal measurement. I believe this is still a record.

During the next three days only a cow Buffalo was bagged, and about this time a good many of our party, including Fraser, Sydney-Parker, Hendley, and Dick-Cunyngham, left camp.

### A FINE DAY'S SPORT.

We had first class sport on the 17th. Our beat was productive of a pair of bull Buffalo and a Tiger. The latter came out to Seton-Karr, who knocked



Record Cow Rhino's Skull. Horn 16½ inch.

him over with a long shot. Both bull Buffaloes went away wounded, and we followed up their blood marks for a bit. After lunch we set fire to

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

the jungle into which they had been tracked and again they broke through the guns. On putting them up a third time, one—the smaller—was knocked over by Karr and Peter. The second one got away, first past me and then past Savage, who



A right and left.

followed him up into a small patch and found the beast lying in the grass. Savage naturally thought he was dead, when all of a sudden the bull jumped up and charged, driving Savage's Elephant slick out of the jungle. The bull then crossed a

## A RECORD BULL RHINO.

small stream and lay up in another small patch, where I came on him lying down. However, he was anything but dead, and charged the moment he caught sight of me. I turned him with a couple of shot, and he then went for Ashton's Elephant, which he managed to get home on and gore badly, but I closed on him quickly and finished him. I have seldom seen a Buffalo die so game, he had fifteen shots in him, all from either 8 or 10-bore rifles, before he succumbed. He stood 18 hands  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", an exceptionally fine bull though he had a poor head.

As we found the jungle unbeatable on the 18th, we again set fire to it, and three Rhino came out, but they all cleared off without giving a shot. A bull Buffalo came out to me and I got him, but he took a lot of killing. He was a long, low massive Buffalo, and stood 17 hands. On the way back to camp two Bison were put up in a tree jungle, but as luck would have it, these, too, got away without being fired

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

at. I was also told that a Tiger had passed in front of the leading Elephants, but any way it was too dark then to have done any good even had we seen him.

On the 19th March I killed a very big bull Rhino, the largest indeed that I have ever shot. Girth 119", biggest girth 144", neck where it joins body 90", neck near head 74", height at shoulder 19 hands and  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", horn nearly 13". So far as I know, this holds the record. The one quoted by Rowland Ward,\* and which was also shot by me, was a good bit smaller.

The 20th was the last day of our shoot, and although there was a high wind and much rain, we were able to bag one Rhino out of three that were in the beat, not bad considering we could only take one beat after lunch. Camp was broken up next day.

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\*Rowland Ward's book was written about this time and published in 1896. Measurements of other big beasts which I have since killed are not therefore quoted in it.

# RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1895.

Animals.										Feb. 20th- Mar. 20th.
Tiger	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	7
Leopard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1
Rhino	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Buffalo	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	14
Bear	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sambur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	6
Barasingh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	10
Hog Deer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	7
Antelope	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pig	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

One bull Bison was also shot.



## CHAPTER XI.

1895—*contd.*

An April Shoot—Eight Buffalo and a Tiger—Sport on the Banks of the Jorai—"Stripes" and Family accounted for—Right and left at Buffalo—A good, heavy Tiger.

ALL things being favourable, I made up my mind to have another shoot in April of the same year. Firman, Baron Mas-sow, Apcar, Perree, Lehmann, Seton-Karr, P. Sen, E. Ezra, Hawkins, and A. Ezra, all came out with me.

We started on the 14th for Bhalka Balashi, and our first day's sport was an excellent one. Out of a herd of twelve Buff, we shot eight, besides a good big Tiger. One of the cows shot was a very fine beast and stood 16 hands 3" at the

EPISODES IN A DAY'S SPORT.



WAITING.



ON THE WAY TO COVER.



ARRANGING A BEAT.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

shoulder. When I first saw her, I thought she was a bull. Peter got a bull all to his own cheek.

The Tiger we got after lunch in a small patch on the banks of the Sunkos. He charged out as soon as the line was put in, but was quickly finished. A good long Tiger, but very light for his size. Full length 9'-11", body 6'-8½", girth 51", biceps 24", forearm 18", head 36½", height 36½", weight 422lbs. He had eaten nothing for days and this accounts for his weight.

The next day we made for the Forest Reserves, where we had a long day after Rhino. One was seen, but only for a second. Rather bad luck not getting anything, as we came across fresh tracks of several Rhino and Buffalo.

We had a fairly good day on the 16th. An early start was made after a bull Buffalo, but we didn't find. After breakfast we had a try for a Tiger, though as the *khubber* was five days' old

## SHOOTING ON THE JORAI.

our hopes weren't very strong. Two patches were beaten, and in the second a Leopard was put up and shot. He measured 7'-5". On the way home we got *khubber* of a second Tiger, quite close to our camp, and this one was knocked over directly after the beat began. He was a very light Tiger, scaling only 404lbs. Length 9'-5", body 6'-5", biceps 22½", forearm 18", girth 47", head 35" and height 37½".

Luck deserted us on the 17th. We were shooting the jungles near Jamba Mèchè's house and put up two Buffalo in the first beat, but they both got away wounded. After lunch they were put up a second time and again gave us the slip.

On the 18th, we shot along the banks of the Jorai and bagged two Tiger—a male and a female—and also two Bear. We lost a third Bear.

A Leopard and a bull Buffalo fell to us on the 19th. The Leopard was killed on the banks of the

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Jorai, and the bull Buffalo on the banks of the Sunkos, both near Barbera.

The day following this, we tried the jungles on the south of the camp, but did no good. A beat for a Tiger resulted in nothing.

On the 21st a Tiger was bagged. We went after a Tigress on the 22nd, but she wasn't at home, and the total bag was only two Bear cubs.

Things looked up a bit on the next day, and a Tiger and two cubs were padded. Singbir had seen the Tiger early in the morning, and we got him after lunch on the other side of the Sunkos. He measured  $9'-6\frac{1}{2}"$  in length, body  $5'-6"$ , biceps  $27\frac{1}{2}"$ , forearm  $17\frac{3}{4}"$ , girth  $51"$ , head  $35"$ , height  $36\frac{1}{2}"$  and weighed 440lbs. Two cubs were also bagged after lunch at the edge of the Forest Reserves, but the mother—bad luck to her!—gave us the slip. Boli had spotted their tracks early this morning.

**"SOLD."**

The next day there was rest for man and beast. On the morning of the 24th, Poku brought in hot *khubber* of three Buffalo, one a bull and another a good cow. We hurried out, and when



**Fishing for Sprats.**

we reached the place, found them all to be tame ones. May his soul rest in peace! The day after this little episode, a Tigress—the mother of the cub shot on the 22nd—was heard calling.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

We first tried a patch outside the Reserves, but she wasn't there. We then made for the patch where she had been on the first day, and here her pugs were fresh. Boli, following them up along the banks of the river, saw the Tigress jump out of the water on the bank above and the rest was easy.

With good *khubber* of Tiger and a bull Buffalo we all (including De la Fosse who had joined us) started on the 26th, full of hope, for the Horseshoe Jungle and returned in abject despair. Never a glimpse of either a Tiger or a Buffalo.

On the 27th we didn't make a start till after lunch on account of the rain, and then we went to beat some heavy grass at the edge of the Reserves for Rhino and Buff. No signs of Rhino, but I got two Buffalo with a right and left.

For the last day of the shoot—the 28th—we tried the banks of the Jorai. We had had good

### A GOOD FINISH.

*khubber* of Tiger and we found him in quite a small patch and bagged him without any difficulty. He was a good heavy beast, weighing 508lbs. The measurements were 9'-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from tip of nose to end of tail, body 6'-11", girth 54", biceps 29", fore-arm 19", head 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", height 40". There were lots of tracks of Rhino about, but we didn't actually see any.

A Buffalo shot on the Jorai River made a very good ending to the shoot.



# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1895—*contd.*

Animals.										April 14th-28th.
Tiger ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Leopard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rhino ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Buffalo...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Bear ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sambur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Barasingh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hog Deer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Antelope	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pig ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

## CHAPTER XII.

1895—*concl'd.*

Mahakulguri in December—Chequered luck—The General's Rhino—Long day on the Raidak—Two Bear but no Tiger, the only beasts shot at—Six hits with a '303.

I COULD not resist a cold weather shoot, making our third expedition during 1895, so started with a big party for Mahakulguri on the first day of December.

The sportsmen in camp included General Yeatman-Biggs, H. Elliott, Lister, Bertram, Nolan, Lewis, Georges, Lane-Anderson, Plowden, Lewis (Junior) and Wintour. The Maharani, Mrs. Bertram and Mrs. Lane-Anderson were also with us.

We began badly with the Rhino. The day after our arrival a Rhino in the Forest Reserves got away badly wounded, and the next day, the 3rd, two Rhino were put up (in the same place) and

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

fired at, but both managed to escape us. Thanks to the mahouts and a few others, I very nearly bagged one of my own Elephants! As soon as lunch was over, we put up the two Rhino a second time in the same patch, but they again bested us—worse luck! There was a bit of compensation, though, in this beat. No one had the slightest idea there was Tiger about, when suddenly one sprang up, and Bertram killed him with a shot through the neck. It was certainly a rare piece of good luck bagging him like that. On the other hand four Buffalo got clean away through the line. A Sambur stag was shot this day, which weighed 39 stone 6lbs. and another on the 4th weighing 31 stone 8lbs.

General Yeatman-Biggs knocked over a cow Buffalo on the 5th, but the whole day was very disappointing.

The 6th brought a change of luck with it, and we had an excellent day's sport, bagging two



Bertram's Rhino.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Rhino, a bull and a cow. The bull was a big one, and evidently one that the General (Yeatman-Biggs) had fired at in the first beat. I wasn't myself near any of the beasts when they were shot at, but from all I can gather, Lister must have plugged him again and eventually Bertram finished him off. He took a good bit of getting, and had to be tracked a long way by his blood. Peter Sen knocked the cow over, and I was told a third Rhino was seen, but about this I am not at all sure.

I hadn't seen the bull myself, but sent Hatashu with the photographer to measure the length and height at shoulder. He brought back the following information :—Total length 12'-10", height at shoulder 19 hands 3"!!! This last measurement takes a good bit of swallowing, even now.

We had another good day on the 7th, getting two bull Buffalo. All the luck fell to Elliott, for he had the first bull all to himself and flanked two



Elliott's bull Buffalo.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

bullets into the second one. Sujey had two shots at a Rhino and Wintour also got one in, but, in spite of it all, the beast escaped. Nolan, too, got a shot at a Rhino, while as for me I hadn't up to that time seen a big beast alive during the shoot. The Rhino really seemed to be imps of Satan by the way they were always besting us.

We had a long day on the Raidak River on the 8th after Buff, but they either wouldn't break out at all, or else kept breaking through the line. This happened time after time. There must have been eight or nine altogether, and a few shots were fired, but only at moving grass and nothing resulted. I had intended giving the Elephants an off-day, and I was precious sorry I hadn't stuck to my intention.

On returning to camp I heard that *khubber* of Tiger had been brought in late in the afternoon, though why on earth it couldn't have reached us earlier I can't make out. However, we went

### SOME BAD DAYS.

after him next day and failed to turn him out. I dare say this was due in part to the line being faulty, as I know a patch of the jungle was left unbeaten. Two Bear came out during the beat. Georges had first shot at the bigger one, and the General had the other all to himself. I expect it was when the Bear were being banged at that the Tiger slipped away.

We had some bad days to get through after this. The 10th was spent trying unsuccessfully, as it turned out, to get on terms with Rhino in the Reserves and substituting Tiger for Rhino; the 11th was passed in the same way. Shooting at Alak Jhar five Buff were turned out in the third beat, but though fired at, they gave us the slip. Towards the end of the first beat after lunch, Hatashu saw a couple of Tiger on the Theamari Ghat Road, but some of the Elephants unfortunately got bogged, and it must have been somewhere about when this happened that they managed to break through.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

We did at last bag a Buffalo on the 13th, but bad luck was still dogging our steps, and at the end of the day there was the same old story. Three Buffalo got away and a Tiger that was practically surrounded managed to slip through the line. We picked up the head of one of the Buff that had been fired at, but the horns were missing at the time, though they were brought in afterwards.

By now our party had shrunk a good deal, Lewis, Elliott, Lister, Nolan, Georges, the Andersons, Mrs. Bertram and the Maharani having all left camp.

On the 14th we got a Tigress in the second beat and saw many very fresh tracks of Rhino and Buffalo, though we didn't catch sight of the beasts themselves.

I had meant to break up camp and move into Cooch Behar on the 15th, but as *khubber* was



The only beast I fired at during the whole shoot.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

brought in the night before of a Tiger having killed a bullock near Samukbhanga, and this was not very much out of our road, it seemed worth while to have a try for him. The Tiger, a fine young male, came out to me and gave quite an easy shot. I fired at the neck, knocked him over, and believed he was done for, so I ordered the mahout to move up to the spot where he lay, when out he came with a roar.

I was so utterly taken aback that I missed my first shot at him, but the second hit him, as I discovered afterwards, in the chest, the third just in front of the withers, the fourth in the mouth, and as he was moving away I put a fifth into his quarters which rolled him over. Even then I had to finish him with a shot through the centre of his neck. Of course, I could not tell at the time exactly where the bullets had struck, but on examining him we found three shots in the neck, one on the chest, one in the mouth and one on the quarters.

## TIGER AND '303'S.

What price me, had I been on foot? I was using only '303's the whole time—before Dum Dum bullets were invented. No more '303's for tigers for me! He was a short, heavy Tiger, 8'-9" in length, the body being 5'-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and the tail only 2'-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1895—*concl'd.*

Animals.										Dec. and 15th.
Tiger ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Leopard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rhino ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Buffalo...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bear ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sambur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Barasingh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hog Deer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Antelope	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pig ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

## CHAPTER XIII.

1896.

A good beginning—Great sport at Guigaon—Leopard up a tree—  
Buffs and Rhino in the Reserves—"Kennedy" in a quicksand—  
A fine bull Bison—Escape of "Secunder"—Bison, Leopard and  
Pig in one patch.

**T**HIS year my camp was first pitched at Mahakulguri, to which came the Prince and Princess Hans Henry of Pless, the Maharani, P. Burgess, Lowis, Pollen, N. Sen, Plowden, Count Hochberg, P. Sen, J. Ezra and A. Ezra. We began shooting on the 20th February and bagged a Tiger and two cow Buffalo; the bull got away badly wounded; one of the cow had a very fine pair of horns, 10'-6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " round the curves, base of horns 15", between tips 34 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", and widest span 57".

As we were sitting down to lunch *khubber* came in of a pair of Tiger. Only one was turned

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

out, and he was banged by both Burgess and Pollen. He then made for a small patch, going very slowly and evidently badly hit. Four or five pads were put in to drive him out, but he turned the tables on them and drove them out, scratch-



Posting Guns.

ing "Gulzar" slightly on the hind leg. The howdahs, however, went in and finished him. He was a fair Tiger, 9'-6" in length.

We shot Guigaon the next day, and during the first beat a Rhino broke. A couple of shots were

## A REAL GOOD DAY.

fired at him at 80 yards, but didn't seem to do him much harm, for he got clean away across the open into the Reserves. In the second beat, a Tigress and a couple of Bear were turned out. Lewis knocked the Tigress over and Burgess got one of the Bear, the other one breaking back. In the meanwhile the luncheon Elephant had come up and brought in *khubber* of a Tiger having killed a Buffalo near camp. There were small patches only along the banks of the nullah, so I sent the guns forward and beat up towards them. I had just about given up all hopes of turning the beast out, when Ashton whistled to me, pointing at something moving in the grass. It was a Tiger, though—as we discovered a few minutes later—not the one that had killed the Buff. As he charged through the grass, the Prince and I had shots at him, and hit him hard, but he managed to get through into the open where the guns on the further side of the nullah finished him.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

We then beat again for the Tiger that had killed the Buff, and in a few minutes had the satisfaction of seeing our third Tiger padded. While we were finishing off the second Tiger, Nirmal went after a Bear and wounded him badly, but he got off. A real good day's sport, and with luck we might have bagged two more Bears and a Rhino. The largest of the three Tiger measured 9'-5" and weighed 493½lbs.

One couldn't expect luck of this sort to continue, and it didn't. Beyond picking up two Rhino that Burgess and Pollen had previously wounded, and bagging a Sambur, we got nothing whatever until the 27th. On this day, at Simlabari, a Tiger was put up in the first beat and we got him without trouble. He was a very fine animal, measuring 9'-9½" in total length, and scaling 496lbs. As a matter of fact he was really a 500-lb. Tiger, as he had lost fully 4lbs. of blood from a wound in the throat. It was a finishing

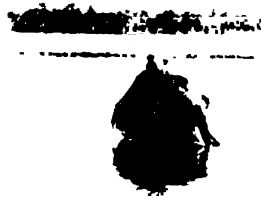


Crossing the  
Raidak River.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

shot that gave him this, and the moment the bullet hit him, torrents of blood gushed out.

We began badly on the 28th at Baman Kote in the Reserves. The first beat was absolutely blank, and the second a muddle ; after lunch things improved. A Rhino broke in front of Aaron (Ezra), who fired a couple of shots ; then the beast came down to Peter Sen and Sir Ben Simpson (who had joined us), and finally I finished him off. Pollen had a snapshot at a Bear, but didn't get him. I was told by the mahouts that a Tiger had been seen. If so, he must have slipped through the line. The jungle at this place was tremendously heavy.



"Kennedy" with his dinner.

On the Bakla River south of our camp we padded a fine Tiger on the 29th. He measured 9'-8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and weighed

#### A "TREED" LEOPARD.

489lbs. Before we had done with him, he got well home on "Sunker Das." After lunch we came across two perfectly fresh kills, and just as we were debating how to turn the beast out of such a large and heavy bit of jungle, we actually heard him calling. The call was repeated several times while I was arranging the line, and I imagined it was a Tigress calling for her cub. This idea was very soon upset by Boli, or rather Pollen, discovering the animal from which the cries emanated perched up in a Simul tree, some 30 feet off the ground. It proved to be a Leopard, and though we didn't turn a Tiger out of the patch, which I never expected to do in so difficult a piece of jungle, I still believe that the cows were killed by a Tiger, and that the Leopard was not the actual marauder. Why it sat up in that tree and spoke, still, so far as I am concerned, remains a mystery, unless he was "treed" by the Tiger.

On the 1st March we went again to the Bakla Nullah, where a Tiger had been heard roaring and

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

shot her, for she turned out to be a Tigress. Within the half-hour Hatashu told me that he had seen vultures soaring over a patch of *null* but not settling, so I determined to beat it, and it was lucky we did, for we had hardly started the line before a Tiger jumped out. He was knocked over almost immediately. His length was 9'-6", but he only weighed 395lbs., though he certainly looked heavier. Both these Tigers were got without regular *khubber*, and the place seemed to be simply reeking with them.

The 2nd March we took as a day of rest, and on the 3rd put up two Rhino at Guigaon, but they did not give a shot. The 4th was a general shoot round about camp, and resulted in a Leopard, a Barasingh and a couple of Pig being bagged. One of the latter was a great, long, heavy beast, scaling 266lbs



A Nepalese Village.

## ELEPHANT IN A "FASAN."

We went to the Reserves on the 5th, and in the first beat put up eleven Buffalo, but somehow they all got away practically without being seen. Five Rhino—four big ones and a small one—were turned out in the second beat, and though two of the big ones were fired at, we only managed to bring down one big one. I thought at the time we ought to have done better.

The next two days were spent unprofitably in beating for Tiger and Rhino, and though we saw tracks, we didn't get a view of the animals themselves. One Bear was bagged on the 6th.

On the 8th, at Bara Dogla, we got a Bison and a Bear. The Bison was driven out in the first beat, being only the fourth one in 25 years that I have seen so far away from the hills. A second Bear was wounded but got away. Poor "Kennedy" got into a *fasan* crossing a rotten little ditch. He couldn't or wouldn't make a struggle to get out, and I had to leave him

### SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

there. This was at about 2-30 p.m., and it was not till 8-30 p.m. that "Kamalini" and "Nur Jehan" managed to pull him out.

We had little or no sport for the next two or three days, so shifted camp to Raymana.



"Kennedy" in the 'fasan' from which it took 6 hours to extricate him.

Elphinstone bagged a fine bull Bison in the Reserves on the 12th. He stood 18 hands 3" and a single shot in the neck did for him; another was wounded but got away.

### A DISAPPOINTING DAY.

The next day three Rhino were put up, but none were bagged, and we got a Buffalo in the last beat. The jungle was simply enormous. The 14th was an even more disappointing day. A bull Bison was put up close to camp in the very first beat, but the stops were quite wrongly placed and he got away. We then had a try for a bull Buff near Jamba Meche's house. This time the line went wrong and the bull Buff just stepped into the Sunkos without being seen. A real bad piece of luck ; two fine beasts getting away without giving a chance of a shot. In the afternoon the Prince and Princess of Pless left, and the next morning we moved camp to Haldibari.

The 17th might have been a good day, for good Tiger *khubber* had come in, but we were forced to remain in camp as all the Elephants were out after the Elephant "Secunder" that had got loose and levanted during the night.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

At Bara Hamua on the 18th we tried for a Tiger, of which we had had *khubber*, but nothing turned out in the first beat. In the next we bagged a Leopard, and after lunch put up the Tiger,



Padding Tiger shot by Prince Henry of Pless on "Sunker Das."

and also a Bear, but both broke through the line, the cause being too few Elephants out in line.

On the 19th, near Bhalka, on the Jorai Nullah, we put up a fine Tiger in the third beat. He

## A LONG, THIN TIGER.

commenced operations by charging home on "Bissen Singh" and then came out to me. I had a snapshot, which sent him back into the *null*, and as the line came up, he charged out again on "Dalton," but only scratched him. A more resolute effort from the line brought him out to me again, and I finished him with a bullet through the brain. His full length was  $10'-1\frac{3}{4}"$ \* and weight only 462 lbs.—light for his size—but he was old and wanted a meal badly, which, as he had killed a bullock, sounds a bit curious. But then he was disturbed at his meal. A good feed would have made a difference of from 30 to 35lbs. in his weight.

We shot the Theamari Reserves on the 20th and the Assam Reserves, opposite the camp, on the 21st. From the former we got a Bear and two Buffalo, and from the latter two Buffalo. A

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\* Full details of the measurement of this and other specially large Tigers will be found at the end of the book.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

big bull was fired at on the second day, but we didn't get him—more's the pity—as he was reported to be a fine beast with enormous horns. I saw his tracks myself, and they were very large.



The Meet at the Deogaon Kalabari.

The 21st was a great day in the Hamua jungles. We first went to Theamari after a Tiger, but didn't find him at home. Then Hatashu *shikari* came in to say he had seen tracks of two Tiger in the Hamua jungles, and so after

### A LUCKY PATCH.

lunch we made for the place. The first beat was blank, though I noticed one or two Elephants in the line jib a bit. We were all disgusted and were making our way to another patch when the leading Elephant, "Sagaria," suddenly stopped and trumpeted, and I was certain she had come on the Tiger. The line was soon formed, and I put two extra guns in it, and it was lucky I did so, or the Tigress we bagged would certainly have broken back. Hatashu then suggested my trying another patch near the road, which I did. Just as I was beginning to feel a bit bored at nothing occurring, the stop next me (Burgess) beckoned and pointed out some animal moving in the grass. This must have been the Leopard that was shot afterwards. Suddenly a cry was raised of "Goru" (Bison), and some one opened fire to the great discomfort, if not danger, of the stop howdahs. The next moment the Bison came tearing through the grass, and either Ezra or I bowled him over. The mahouts were jubilant, and were just about to

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

jump off their Elephants to '*halal karo*' the Bison—in fact Gedra had already done so—when someone shouted "*bagh.*" I never saw such a stampede of men and Elephants; the mahouts lost their heads completely, and there was a general rush for the spot where "Spots" was last seen. The battle of Tel-el-Kebir was nothing to what followed! Volleys were fired till at last somebody called out "*murgaya,*" and the beast turned out to be a Leopard. A great big Pig was also put up, but we were too busy to find time to deal with him, so that out of one small patch a Bison, a Leopard, and a huge Boar were put up. If I remember rightly it was on this very spot, years ago, that I won a 100—I bet about getting a Tiger.

The rest of the shoot is soon told. We changed camp to Garad Haut, but as for big game only two Bear were bagged, and though we had several tries after Tiger, Rhino and Buffalo, we came

## LAST NEWS OF "SECUNDER."

across nothing better than tracks. On the 27th, our last day, Burgess brought down a Black Buck at 340 yards with a Lee-Metford, and so the shoot ended. We might perhaps have done better had I gone again to Mahakulguri on the way back ; but Boli's *khubber* of Tiger at Garad Haut tempted me. Regarding "Secunder," the Elephant that escaped, the last news of him was that he was somewhere in the Kachugaon jungles, and not likely to be caught. A thousand pities, for he was turning out about the best Howdah-Elephant I have ever ridden.

# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

## RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1896.

Animal.						Feb 20th to Mar 27th	April.	Total.
Tiger	...	...	...	...	...	10	1*	11
Leopard	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
Rhino	...	...	...	...	...	5	2*	7
Buffalo	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	7
Bison	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
Bear	...	...	...	...	...	6	2*	8
Sambur	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Barasingh	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	5
Hog Deer...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
Antelope	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Pig	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	6

\* Shot by Michel, Burgess, Ezra and Buxi.

## CHAPTER XIV.

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1897.

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Chequered Luck—Tiger at last—Lost Opportunities—A Disappointing Week—Fighting Tigress—Shooting on the Jorai—"Timur Shah" mauled—A big Rhino.

IT was not until the 11th March that my party, consisting of General Yeatman-Biggs, Aylmer, Allen, A. Ezra and Plowden set out for the annual shoot. The first day, alas, was a blank, and on the second an old and rather small bull Buffalo was bagged near Bagjhora in the forest.

At Raidak Balashi we got two cow Buffalo on the 13th. There were nine or ten in the herd, and the bull was fired at, at close quarters, but got away. The next day was devoted to looking up "Stripes," quite uselessly as it happened, as all we saw, besides Deer, was a couple of Bear, one of which was bagged. The 15th was another poor



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

day spent after Rhino. Only in the very last beat did we see two, but at that time we were doing general shooting and could not change our 'expresses' for 8 or 10-bores before both animals were out of sight.



A Drink by the Way.

*Khubber* of a Tiger having killed four cows came in. It turned out to be a Leopard, and that we did not manage to bag. It was seen three or four times and fired at twice, but I had only 20 Elephants out, and the patch really required three times that number to beat it properly.

## TIGER AT LAST.

On the 17th a Tiger was at last shot in the old Gurh jungles. Hatashu brought in the *khubber*, and the first and second beats proved futile, though the 'kill' and lots of tracks had been seen. I then took up the freshest looking tracks and followed them up into a great impossible looking jungle, where we eventually found and shot the beast. He was 9'-1½" in length and weighed 398lbs. The General, Aylmer and Plowden left us on this date.

Apparently good *khubber* of both Tiger and Leopard came in on the morning of the 18th. On getting to the place where the Tiger was said to be, we found the 'kill' still outside. It wasn't very hopeful, but we beat two patches for him, and he was in neither. We then went after the Leopards, found and killed a pair. The male was 7'-10" in full length, body 4'-10" and weight 139lbs. The female was 7'-1", body 4'-4" and weighed 115lbs.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Burgess, Smyth and Good joined us on the 19th, and we all went to the Reserves, but bad luck attended us the whole day. The game actually seen included four Tiger and six Buff, and yet, from one cause or another, we bagged nothing. Only one cow Buffalo was fired at, and in the last beat I just missed seeing by a few seconds and having a shot at the old bull Buff.

But for two Barasingh doe, the 20th was equally unproductive, though I am certain in my own mind that there was a Tiger afoot in the last beat. The place was simply covered with fresh Tiger tracks.

We bagged a fine Tiger at Chota Dal Dalia on the 20th. He got home on "Runjit Singh" and nearly boned the mahout. As a matter of fact he just cleared the mahout's toes. His full length was 9'-5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and he weighed 477lbs.—full of beef and in dealer's condition.



**The Bear padded.**

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Baman Kote yielded us a good Bear, 6'-6" in length, weight 350lbs., and on the 23rd we had a long and disappointing day in the Reserves. With ordinary luck we might have got a Buff or two. One was wounded, but though we followed him up for miles, first on Elephants and then on foot, we never saw him again.

We turned out a small herd of five Buff on the 25th at Bara Dogla. They first went to Ezra, who opened fire, but they galloped off as if nothing had happened. However, after a bit one of them slowed down. I had a shot, but the distance was too great—nearly two hundred yards—to do much damage. Ezra, Ashton and Sujey, who by the way had joined us some days back, having faster mounts than I had, managed to come up with the wounded beast and began a regular fusillade, which eventually did for the Buff. The rest of the herd, after crossing the Raidak, got into another patch and twice gave

### FLOORED WITH ONE SHOT.

chances to the howdahs, but they were not taken. We really ought to have bagged the lot.

We tried Baman Kote on the 26th, where a fine bull Bison might have been killed, but wasn't. At the same place, the next day, three Bear were bagged and a Leopard wounded, which got off owing to the darkness.

Though we moved camp twice, first to Haldi-bari on the Sunkos and then to Bara Bhalka, the next week was too full of disappointment and void of incident to possess much interest, so I shall pass on to our next Tiger which was killed at Parakota on the 5th April. He was a fine beast, 9'-7" in length and weighing 458lbs.; a very old one too, all his front teeth being worn down and one fang broken. There was no chance of his showing fight, as he was floored with one shot.

The day following this was utilized as a rest day for the Elephants, and I went out to have a

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

look for the missing Elephant, "Sikunder" which was lost last year. We saw no signs of him, but came across some wild ones.

A Bear was killed close to camp on the 7th, and, like the last Tiger, he too was very old with nearly all his tusches blunt or gone. His total length was 6'-9", body 6'-2", girth 50", height 35 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and weighed 392lbs.

On the 8th a good bull Buffalo was shot at the edge of the Reserves, standing 17 hands 1" at the shoulders.

We found a real good fighting Tigress close to camp on the 9th. The day before, we had seen a dead cow and we started operations by inspecting the place. I saw pug marks and fancied they belonged to a Tiger and not to a Leopard as some thought. The first two beats were blank, and we then tried a small patch on the other side of the nullah, out of which a Tigress came out to Ezra. He fired, and on receiving the

## A FIGHTING TIGRESS.

shot she charged at once, Ezra's elephant swinging round and making off. The Tigress then swam the nullah and Burgess and Ashton got shots at her as she was crossing. Relieving the



**A Good Bulky Tiger.**

beast was wounded and meant mischief, I only sent on four guns as stops, joining the line myself with Smyth, Perrée and Ashton. We hadn't gone very far when I heard a roar, and the next moment



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Elephants were flying round in all directions. Unfortunately she had singled out a pad elephant on which to wreak her vengeance and she got well home on him, giving him a nasty bite over the eye. The Elephant carried her on his head for a few seconds and then chucked her off. She next began charging the Elephants indiscriminately and presently came in my direction.

I had her carefully covered with my .450, and was just on the point of firing when my Elephant suddenly turned tail and went for dear life, I holding on all I knew. After a bit the mahout managed to get my beast back, and as I did not want any more Elephants mauled, I called in all the howdahs, and forming line moved towards the place she was last seen. I was beginning to wonder if she had managed to sneak off, when, with another roar, she went for Perree and actually scratched old "Sagaria" on the trunk before Perree dropped her; for her size, 8'-4½", she certainly took a lot of beating as a fighter.



The fighting Tigress padded.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The day following our turn up with the Tigress was an unfortunate one. We began by beating for Rhino in the Reserves, but in spite of fresh tracks we didn't come up with any. After lunch some of us went on to Sabibpara, intending to shoot our way home. As we were quietly wandering towards camp, a villager came to tell us that a Tiger had killed early that morning and had dragged the kill into the forest on the Kulkuli nullah. On getting there, the Tiger was beaten out, and one of the stops had a shot at 25 yards but without effect, and the beast disappeared into the Reserves.

Shooting on the Jorai, a bull Buffalo and Leopard were bagged on the 11th. The bull Buff was found in a small patch and one of the line guns fired at him, driving him on to Burgess and Smyth, who finished him. The Leopard gave a lot of trouble, as we couldn't, for a long time, get him to break into the open. There were seven beats before he was bagged.

### STOPS BADLY PLACED.

We spent most of the 12th hunting for three Bear which we never saw. A Boar was shot standing  $31\frac{3}{4}$ " at the shoulder and weighing 261lbs.

The 13th was another bad day, partly through ill-luck and partly through mismanagement. We were in the Reserves, and Burgess, who had got two bull Buff in front of him, had just time to fire a shot when his Elephant bolted and the Buffalo weren't seen again. After lunch a Rhino was put up, and though at one time he was quite close to me, for the life of me I couldn't see him. All the stops—thanks to the *shikari*—were badly placed. It would have been perfectly simple, as I saw afterwards, to put two of the guns in the "Bathani" just outside the *sal* trees, and then with any luck we should have bagged him.

The 14th brought with it no change of luck, and yet the place was one of good omen, for it was the identical place where a couple of years ago

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

we had bagged eight Buffalo and a Tiger in one day. On this occasion, however, nothing of the sort occurred. A bull Buff came out quite close to me, though I couldn't actually see him, so stood on the seat of the howdah in hopes of getting a shot. Meanwhile he slipped behind, and I saw Ashton, who was tearing across to the right, suddenly stop and fire. I dashed after him, but was only in time to see a fine bull Buffalo galloping away some 200 yards distant. I did open fire with the Lee-Metford and .450 on the off chance of stopping him, but he didn't seem to mind it much.

On our way to Garad Haut on the 15th we came across a regular fighting Tiger. This was on the Jorai, close to Chota Bhalka. He commenced operations by charging one of the Elephants, "Smith," in the grass before he was even fired at. We drove him out again, and he broke between Burgess and Smyth, both of whom fired. I also let fly at about 60 yards, but as he was galloping for



Group of Typical Villagers

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

all he was worth, none of us had an easy shot. He laid up in a patch, where I expected to find him dead, but not a bit of it ; he was full of life, and the moment the Elephants approached him, out he came with a roar, getting home on "Timur Shah" and giving him a baddish bite on the trunk. Ashton, who was on "Timur," dislodged him with a shot, and Smyth finished him. We found an old decomposed wound on his back, which probably accounts for his show of temper. His full length was 9'-3".

On the 16th we went after a bull Buffalo that had been seen near the old Horse-shoe jungle and bagged him. We had had a longish hunt after him, and had almost given up hopes of turning him out, when he suddenly emerged from an unbeaten patch. Nearly all the luck came my way, though Burgess had three shots at him. Two Pig were also bagged, one—the Boar—standing 30" at the shoulder.

## RHINO ON THE JOB.

The next day we tried the Horse-shoe jungle again, and came on fresh Rhino tracks in the first patch we were beating, but as the tracks led out of it I stopped the beat and had lunch, while the



In the 'Elephant' Grass.

Jemadar went on to try and locate the beast. Lunch over, I took up a likely patch, and the Rhino broke, but charged back through the line, grunting and snorting like a steam engine. I then



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

got the guns together and sent them to the other end of the patch in hopes the beast would break that way, which he did, but never came right out into the open. Smyth had the first turn at him, and the third shot bowled him over. The Rhino, however, picked himself up and got back through the end of the line, Ashton and Burgess getting shots at him *en route*. The patch was then beaten again, but this time there were no signs of the Rhino. It was getting on to 5 o'clock; we were eight miles from home and things began to look bad. Ashton came across blood tracks, but lost them almost at once. As the jungle was burnt all round, I sent off a mahout to see if the tracks led out of the jungle, and on his reporting that they did not, I sent in all the guns to beat up the heavy part of the grass, and the Rhino was soon turned out and bagged after a fusillade that gave the poor beast no show.

Total length, measured between pegs, was 12'-3", body 10'-3", girth 108", biggest girth 132",

## A RHINO'S MEASUREMENTS.

neck, where it joins body, 82", neck, near head, 66", and height 17 hands 2". There was evidently a Tiger about also, but it was too late to think of trying for him. As it was, indeed, we didn't reach camp till 9 P.M.

### RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1897.

Animals.										Mar. 12th to April 17th.
Tiger ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Leopard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rhino ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Buffalo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bear ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sambur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Barasingh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Hog Deer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Antelope	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pig ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

A wild dog and a civet cat were also shot.

## CHAPTER XV.

1898.

Leopard shooting—The real Start—On Terms with "Stripes"—  
The Dum-Dum Bullet—A brace of Cattle-lifters—Fortune in the  
Forest—Run of bad Luck—Bison and Rhino—Great sport at last.

**A**T the end of January, Jotindro, Gojendro, Rajey, Jit and myself had some Leopard shooting. We commenced on the 30th, and that day got a couple—male and female—a mile and a half from Nilkotee. Both were bagged in the same patch, and the second one tried to charge but he didn't get a chance.

The next day we tried at Kalighat on the banks of the Torsa, but the *khubber* was a day old and we only got a Pig.

On February 1st, Jit had his first shot at big game, and hit a Leopard, a nice one, measuring 7'-4".

## CAMP ON THE RAIDAK.

Rajey got his first Leopard on the 2nd, and the 5th Leopard, measuring 7'-4½", was bagged on the 8th at Gopalpur.

The big shoot commenced on February 14th and lasted till March 23rd. Frewen, Jaucourt, A. Ezra, Rajey, Adam, Neufville, Jotindro, Peter, Plowden and Sujey were out with me for sport, while the Maharani, Jit, Sukriti and Kebla made up the non-shooting members of the party.

Our first camp was on the Raidak, a mile or so below the Forest Reserves. The first two beats were for Buffs, but none were then seen. After lunch we crossed over and made a big line along the banks of the Raidak. Ezra and Rajey knocked over a small Buffalo of doubtful parentage, and on the way home, four Sambur Stags were bagged.

The 15th was a long day, mostly spent in the old 'gurh', after three Bear which we never got a

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

sight of. Two Boar were killed—one, a fairly big one, weighed 19 stone 3lbs. and stood 30 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

The next day we got a fine, heavy Tiger in a patch of jungle off the Cheepla River, only about three-quarters of a mile from camp. He pretended to make a charge, but at the last moment his heart failed him. His measurements were: length 9'-5", body 6'-6", and weight 479lbs.

Another Tiger was bagged on the 17th in the Raidak Sapkata jungles. Hatashu brought in the *khubber* of a kill which he came across while on his way to Bara Dogla. We proceeded to the place and only managed to get on terms with him in the fourth beat. He charged about a good deal at first, but wouldn't face the stops and very nearly broke through the line, where he was killed. He was a youngish Tiger, 9'-2" in length and weighed 318lbs. Between pegs his full length was 8'-2".

The bag on the 18th included a big Leopard and a Sambur Stag, the latter worth noting, as

## EFFECT OF A DUM-DUM BULLET.

it had been shot with a Dum-Dum bullet. The Leopard was killed at Pentaguri, and according to the old way of measuring was 7'-7½" in total length with a body 4'-8". Between pegs these figures came



The Sambur Stag.

out at 7'-2" and 4'-3" respectively. We examined the Stag to see the effect of the Dum-Dum bullet. At the entry the wound was small but increased to four inches in diameter at the place just inside the skin where the bullet, or rather the remnants of it,

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

had stopped. The left shoulder had been pierced, and the bullet was in bits inside, only two pieces being found. The Stag was hit at about 90 yards distance.

We commenced proceedings on the 19th by beating for a Tiger at Sapkata. He hadn't killed and we did not find him. We then went for the 'Gurh' Bears, but they weren't at home either. Two Barasingh Stags were killed during the day, and on the way home we bagged a Leopard.

The following day we beat for Tiger at Bara Dogla. The Tiger was there all right, but the jungles were impossible and required a couple of hundred Elephants to do any good. Such of the patches as were burnable we set fire to.

Again on the 21st we tried Bara Dogla with very unsatisfactory results, principally owing to the *shikaris* not having done their work properly. We got a Tiger cub in the first beat, and

## TIGER AND LEOPARD.

the Tigress was certainly afoot in two others, but she slipped through somehow.

The 22nd was a blank day, though *khuòber* of Tiger was brought in and sounded good enough. However, on getting to the ground, it was evident that the *khubber* was not good, for although we found a bullock killed and partially eaten, it hadn't been dragged inside the jungle. We beat several patches without result. The Elephants had a rest on the 23rd, and we killed a Leopard—of which *khubber* had been brought—three miles from camp. The old method of measuring made him 7'-6" and the new 7'-1½". The 24th was productive of a Tiger. We began with a couple of beats at Guigaon, and though nothing came out to the stops, Plowden saw something uncommonly like a small Tiger get through the right flank of the line. While at lunch, the Elephants I had left in camp brought out a man with news of a kill at Narathali, which he said had been perpetrated by a large Leopard.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

On arrival at the spot the jungle—just a small strip of *null*, burnt all round—unquestionably looked a bit too small to hold a Tiger, and on putting in the line, something was seen to slip through it. Luckily for us, Sujey, who had stayed behind, said he thought he had seen a Tiger. This statement was soon verified, for, on re-making the line, a Tiger jumped out. He made one charge and succeeded in scratching “Mohun Lal,” but we soon had him padded. It just shows how easily one can be mistaken, for I would have laid any odds that a Tiger wasn’t responsible for the kill. According to the two ways of measuring, the length of the Tiger was 9'-3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and 8'-10 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

Lawson joined us on the 25th, on which date we went to Hamua to look for a Tiger or Tigers that were said to have killed eleven bullocks and cows. Two were turned out, and both bagged without much trouble. Rajey distinguished himself by knocking one over with a single shot. They measured 9' and 8'-9" respectively.



A fine pair.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

At Bara Bhalka we put up and bagged a 7' Leopard where, according to our information, should have been a Tiger and Tigress. As it happened I had another good *khubber* of Tiger the same morning, so I wasn't particularly pleased at having to go eleven miles for a Leopard.

We had very bad luck at Hamua on the 27th, as late in the afternoon we had a Tigress in the line, but she sneaked through and got clean away ; throughout the day absolutely nothing was bagged.

*Khubber* came in on the morning of the 28th of four kills at Chengmari, one of which had been dragged into the Forest Reserves. This sounded bad, as it is next to impossible in the Reserves to beat a Tiger out to stops. However, we went out and first beat a small patch outside which were two kills. Here, as I expected, we drew blank, but on going to the forest, fortune favoured us, and Lawson got the Tiger with a

### AN EXCELLENT FIND.

single shot. There was also a Tigress in the beat, which, though wounded, got away. We tracked her up for some time, but did not see her again. The Tiger measured 9'-9" (new measurement 9'-3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " ) and weighed 490lbs. He was full of beef.

The 1st March was a practically wasted day. We intended beating Bara Dogla for a pair of Tiger. While on the way there, one of the *shikaris* met us and said that the Tigers had crossed over to the near side. We found the fresh tracks right enough and beat several patches, but we turned nothing out.

The next day, Hatashu brought in such glowing accounts that I determined to try a new piece of ground near a Santhal village, north-west of Shamuktola. In the first beat a Sambur Stag, weighing 38 stone, was shot by Adam. Out of three Bear turned out in the second, Lawson knocked over the largest and wounded another. After lunch the first beat produced only a Pig,

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

though in the second, two Tiger were turned out and fired at. Both unfortunately got away into the Reserves. Altogether, Hatashu's new find proved an excellent one.



**Lawson's Bear.**

We shot round about camp on the 3rd and 4th, bagging a Leopard (7'-4") and a Bear, and also had a long day without result after Bison on the 5th. At Baman Kote on the 6th we went after



In the Forest Reserves.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Rhino, but didn't see any, though a Tiger came right out into the open during the last beat and—bad cess to him—got away.

The next ten days of the shoot contains little that is of interest and may be condensed with advantage. Game was scarce pretty well throughout, and though a certain number of big beasts were seen, something always happened to prevent our getting on terms with them. We changed camp several times, but seemed quite unable to break our run of bad luck, until the 15th March, when in the Forest Reserves, I shot a fine cow Buffalo and Rajey a Sambur Stag weighing 48 stone 7lbs. During this very dull period, Adam, Frewen, Neufville, Ezra and Jit left camp, so our party was a good deal reduced.

Still shooting in the Forest Reserves, which we continued to do for several days later. On the 16th we split up our party, Lawson, Rajey, Jaucourt and Ashton tracking in one direction, while I took

## BISON AND RHINO.

the rest of the line and beat towards the Longa River. A young bull Bison got up and I knocked him over, unfortunately as it turned out, for the shot put up a herd of fourteen, which cleared out without giving a chance. I wish I had known they were there. In the last beat, a Rhino, which had been fired at and, I believe, knocked over, came galloping towards me in the open. I tried to cut him off but failed, and then had a couple of shots at over a hundred yards, but neither stopped him, and he got away—confound him. Had the other guns been with us, we should probably have bagged him.

Gauripur joined us on the 17th, a day which we managed effectually to waste. Early in the morning we started for the junction of the Longa and Pepua Rivers, which I was told was only eight miles off. At mid-day, having then travelled hard for four hours, I thought it was about time to stop, and after further enquiry found that the



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

place was still five miles off. This wasn't good enough, so, having had all the trouble for nothing, after lunch we beat homewards. A Bear was fired at but not bagged, and several Sambur Stags gave nice shots, but the Jemadar had not explained to the guns what beasts were to be fired at, so they were left alone.

We had a splendid day's sport at Takum Takum Khas on the 18th, three Rhino and a magnificent Sambur Stag being the result. The Sambur looked bigger than the one shot on the 15th. Three other Rhino were also put up, but didn't give a shot. Ezra, who had only just joined us again, had all the luck. He killed a Rhino with one shot and also got the Stag. The other two Rhino fell to me. Ezra's cow Rhino stood 16 hands and mine was a little bit bigger.

We tried the same place the following day and killed one out of the two bull Buffalo that were turned out.



Some of our Tuskers.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The 20th March was another great day. We beat the forest first without putting anything up. So after lunch we worked a big patch on the Longa River, and here again three Rhino were bagged, two of them bulls. The cow Rhino got home on "Ganesh." The bigger bull Rhino took a lot of killing even after he was knocked over. His measurements were: height 18 hands  $\frac{3}{4}$ ", girth 112", largest girth 146", length 11'-10", body 10'-2" (the last two measurements were between pegs). A third bull Buffalo came out to one of the stops, but in the scrimmage after the three Rhino he managed to slip back.

At Pechadavri, on the 21st, we had a long day after Rhino, but saw nothing and did no good. Some of the mahouts were stung by hornets. The 22nd and 23rd, the last two days of our shoot, brought us in two Sambur and two Barasingh Stag. One of the Sambur, a fine Stag, was shot by Rajey.

## OPINION OF THE SHOOT.

With better knowledge of the country, we should, I think, have made a finer bag. There were lots of Rhino and Bison, though Buffs were not so plentiful. Tigers were also numerous, but the villagers didn't bring in *khubber* as they ought to have done. Comparatively little was shot in the Reserves, the greater number of our beasts having been killed in the "Khas" jungles outside.

# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

## RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1898.

Animals.				Jan. 30th- Feb. 8th.	Feb. 14th- Mar. 23rd.	April.	May.	Total.
Tiger	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	7
Leopard	..	...	...	5	5	4 *	8 †	22
Rhino	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	6
Buffalo	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Bison	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Bear	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Sambur	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	12
Barasingh	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	12
Hog Deer	..	...	...	...	6	...	...	6
Antelope	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pig	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	4

\* Jotindro, Grove, Sujei and myself made up the party.

† Sujei, Sujan, Grove, Ashton, Gauripur and self took part in the shoot.

## CHAPTER XVI.

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1899.

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Simlaguri in Assam—A Good Beginning—Wild Tusker visits Camp—The black Leopard—Return of the "Rogue"—The Record Bag at Dhowbeel—Grand Bison—A Watery Shoot—The Summary.

THE shooting party this year included H. R. H. The Count of Turin, Prince Teano, Sir Benjamin Simpson, Hall, Watson, Count Carpenetto, Lord Lonsdale, Lord Elphinstone, Sir Henry Tichborne, Plowden, Prall, Rajey, Gurdon and Vanderbyl.

We started for our camp at Simlaguri in Assam in February and commenced shooting on the 23rd of that month, when Boli brought in *khubber* of a herd of 10 Buffalo. Of these, five cow were bagged (the three biggest having horns measuring 9'-1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 8'-11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and 8'-7 $\frac{7}{8}$ "), but I am sorry to say the bull broke the line in the first beat and got away.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The next day we saw a fair amount of fresh Rhino tracks, but couldn't locate the beasts, and nothing was killed, but a couple of Python, one of them a very big snake, 17' in length, girth 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ ' and weight 14 stone.

We bagged a Tigress close to camp on the 26th. She taped 9'- $\frac{1}{2}$ ", body 5'-10 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and weighed 329lbs. According to the new measurement, her total length and body were 8'-7 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and 5'-6" respectively. At about 11 p.m. a wild (Gonesh) tusker came into the Elephant "Dhura," and we went out expecting to see him captured at once, but he was very wary and beat us in the end. He went for all the males with great persistency, and we had a good deal of difficulty in keeping him off. Not till 5-30 a.m. did we manage to get a noose round his leg and surround him with our Elephants. By this time it was broad daylight, and catching sight of men, he made frantic efforts to escape, eventually charging "Indrajit," whom he knocked



The Party, 1899 Shoot.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

over and rammed with his tusks on the head and neck. "Indrajit" got up and bolted, and was not found and brought into camp until late in the day. Poor beast, he was awfully knocked about and could neither eat nor drink.

The same morning on which all this disturbance had occurred, separate *khubber* came in of three Tiger and a Leopard. We went to a place where a Tiger and the Leopard were said to be close to one another. The former wasn't at home, but we got the Leopard which proved to be a black one. I had never seen one of this sort before in its wild state. It was a great piece of luck getting so rare a beast. She was 6'-9" in length and weighed 92lbs.

A Tiger which I bagged at Kamargaon on the 27th was a good sized one and gave very little trouble. His full length was 9'-9", body 6'-10½" (new measurements 9'-3" and 6'-4½") and weighed 440lbs. After padding him we had a try for

## A "ROGUE" ELEPHANT.

another Tiger, but in this case drew blank. I forgot to mention that the "Rogue" elephant



H. R. H. The Count of Turin mounting in the unorthodox way.

repeated his visit the night after his first. On the second occasion he went for "Rampershad" and knocked him about a good deal, but not so

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

badly as "Indrajit." Ashton and the Jemadar followed him up, and the moment the "Rogue" sighted them, he charged. Both fired at him and brought him on to his knees, but the brute picked himself up and got away.

The next two days were occupied trying to get on terms with another Kamargaon Tiger, but, as before, he bested us completely. Three more thoroughly disappointing days after Tiger and Rhino had to be passed before we got a stroke of luck, but, when we did, it made up for a good deal.

We shifted camp to Bansbari on the 5th March and the next day gave all a rest.

By this time a week had gone by, practically blank so far as big game was concerned, and I had almost despaired of a change in the luck when the 7th March ushered in the grandest day's shooting I have ever had. This was at Dhowbeel,

## THE RECORD BAG.

where, soon after mid-day, we had thirteen head of big game accounted for, a record which I really think has never been beaten. Here are the details: one bull Bison, two bull Rhino and three cows, two bull Buffalo and five cows. Two Bara-



•A Record Day's Bag: 13 head of Big Game in 2 hours—7 Buffalo, 5 Rhino and 1 Bison.

singh Stag were also shot. Excepting the Barasingh, all these beasts were turned out of one patch of grass. We had great luck in getting the bull Bison. He was seen by the howdah Elephants before we had actually caught them up, and he

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

turned out to be the same that had bested us some years back. He was a rare old bull and stood 18 hands 1" at the shoulder, the horns were tip to tip along inside curve 67", base 21", span 34½", across forehead 17". One of the bull Buffalo was a fine beast too and in prime condition, but carried marks of severe tussles with others of his kind. His measurements were : height 16 hands and ½", girth 104", neck near body 86", neck near head 58", body between sticks 9'-6", total length 12'-2"; in addition to thoseshot, a bull Rhino and a bull Buffalo were put up, but escaped.

A general shoot on the 8th produced three Barasingh, a Pigmy Hog and a Porcupine. In the last beat we came on three or four wild Elephants and let fly at a *Goncsk*, believing he was the old beast that played the devil at Simlaguri, but we didn't get him.

On the 9th we saw fresh tracks of Bison and the beasts were evidently in the tree jungle, but

## ANOTHER GOOD DAY'S SPORT.

we couldn't circumvent them, and the day after moved camp to Bhuiapara.

Two Buffalo—a bull and a cow—were bagged on the 11th, though, thanks to Boli placing the stops all wrong, the majority of the herd bolted without being fired at. The cow Buffalo was killed in the line, and a Rhino, put up in the same beat, managed to slip through between two howdahs. The bull was got in the beat after luncheon, during which another Rhino and Buffalo bested us by outflanking the line.

On our return to camp we heard *khubber* of a Tiger having killed four cows close to camp, so at 9 a.m. the following morning we looked him up and had him padded by quarter past ten. He was a goodish beast : length 9'-5", body 6'-5", or between sticks 9' and 6'.

We had real good sport on the 13th March, bagging a grand Bison, a Rhino and a Buffalo. The bull Bison was killed before lunch and died

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

very game. He charged Ashton's Elephant, and very nearly got him, and did actually get home on a pad Elephant in the line. He was the finest Bison I had ever seen, standing 18 hands  $3\frac{3}{4}$ " at the shoulder, and in the prime of life; the other measurements were: girth 124", body (between sticks)  $9'-6\frac{1}{2}"$ , full length  $12'-3\frac{3}{4}"$ , horns round curves  $76\frac{1}{2}"$ , base  $20\frac{1}{2}"$ , between tips  $26\frac{1}{4}"$ , and widest splay 39". The Rhino and Buffalo were bagged in the only beat we had after lunch. Two other Buffalo, a Bison and a couple of Rhino went off without being fired at.

On the 14th we strove after Buffalo, and up to lunch time had seen nothing except a few doubtfully fresh tracks, so I despatched Boli for information. Lunch was barely over before we heard Boli "cooeing" in the distance. As we were climbing into our howdahs we saw a Buffalo gallop out of the patch, but we failed to get round him. Meanwhile Boli appeared and said that the



Count of Turin's bull Bison.

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## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

herd were in the big nullah, that he had been right in amongst them, but couldn't induce them to come over our way. Now this enormous jungle was all under water, but with news like this something had to be done, so I decided to go in, four stops being left outside on the off-chance of the beasts breaking out. Boli took us straight in, and the line had hardly moved before we found ourselves in the thick of the herd. A merry twenty minutes followed, during which we killed three in the line and a fourth was bagged by the stops. The bull was a fine beast, but, knee-deep in water as we all were, it was impossible to measure any of them.

Another good Bison was bagged on the 15th. We began the day by putting up a small herd of Buffalo before we had come in sight of the howdahs, but they got into a patch of grass, and from there, somehow or other, managed to slip us. In the beat after lunch five more Buffalo were put up

### LONSDALE'S BULL BISON.

and 'did' us again by breaking back through the line. However, towards the end of the day, luck favoured us with a fine bull Bison which came out to Lonsdale. The following are his measurements: height 17 hands  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", girth 114", length 11'-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and body 8'-9". His neck was covered with scars, evidently the results of fighting. A wild tusker with only one tusk—the left one—came into camp during the night and woke us all up. Ashton went out and drove him off before any damage was done.

The 16th was kept as a rest day and the 17th turned out a blank, though I had good *khubber* of Rhino and we saw fresh tracks galore.

In the first beat of the 18th, two Rhino got up, one of which went to Tichborne, who wounded and eventually finished her. The other one was wounded but got off. After lunch we had three beats, in each of which Rhino were put up, but in each of which, alas, there was a repetition of

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

many previous days' experience and none were bagged.

We saw two Rhino again the next day and both went to the stops, but neither was killed.



Rhino dropped in his tracks.

A general shoot on the 20th gave us only: one Sambur Stag, though, I believe, we had a Bear at one time in front of the line.

## A BAG OF BUFFALOES.

The 21st was still more unproductive and the result was absolutely *nil*. Rhino were about, and I believe the left of the line almost came in touch with them. The place, too, was full of fresh tracks, though that wasn't much of a solace, as we didn't see a single beast.

However, the 22nd brought us some consolation in the shape of six Buffalo—five cow and a bull. They were cleverly located in a small patch by Doba and we had no trouble in getting them. The big bull of the herd was the first beast fired at, but as he never came out to the stops, I suppose he broke back. Another Buffalo also cleared off in the same way.

The 23rd was our last day, and possibly we might have had a good finish had not our sport been ruined by some idiots setting fire to the very patch in which the Rhino and Buffalo were lying. As it was the day was blank.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Elphinstone and Vanderbyl stayed on for another six days, at the end of which their bag amounted to three bull Bison, two Rhino, two Buffalo and a Bear.



One of the Count's staff on a baby elephant.

The following extract from my shooting diary, written at the time, pretty well sums up the situation as I left it :—

The country is full of game, *viz.*, Buffalo, Rhino and Bison, but the Deer seem to have left

#### SITUATION SUMMED UP.

the country, and there are very few Tiger about. The earthquake has altered and changed the whole face of the country, and many patches of good jungle that I got game out of in 1896 are now mere swamps full of *fasan*. The small nullahs especially are very bad, being crossable in only a few places.

# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1899.

*February and March.*

Animals.	Feb. 23rd- Mar. 23rd.	Mar. 24th-29th.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	3	.....	3
Leopard ... ..	1*	.....	1
Rhino ... ..	7	2†	9
Buffalo ... ..	25	2†	27
Bear ... ..	.....	1†	1
Bison ... ..	3†	3†	6
Sambur ... ..	2	.....	2
Barasingh ... ..	8	.....	8
Hog Deer .. ..	2	.....	2
Antelope ... ..	.....	.....	.....
Pig ... ..	.....	.....	.....

\* Black Leopard.

† All bulls.

‡ Shot by Elphinstone and Vanderbyl.

## CHAPTER XVII.

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1899—*contd.*

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An April shoot—A notorious couple pay the penalty—Leopard defeats us—But we find Bruin “at home”—A big she-Bear—An unsatisfactory day—We finish with Barasingh and Pig.

**A**PRIL 10th found Elphinstone, Vanderbyl, Melville, Plowden, Vines, Sujey and myself again encamped—this time on the Cheepla River, and *khubber* of the notable Bara Dogla pair of Tiger that had defeated us so often last year came in the same morning. It was then raining hard and everything looked pretty hopeless, but later on the weather cleared up, and at half past eleven we made a start for Sanka Bhangee. We did not reach the ground till a quarter to two, and by 3 p.m. both beasts were padded. Considering that the kill—a big cow Buffalo—was four days old, and that the burnt



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

jungle outside the patch they were lying in was so high that they might easily have sneaked off without being seen, luck certainly greatly favoured us in getting them at all. The Tiger, though only 9' in length, was a heavily built beast, and weighed 420lbs. The Tigress was 8'-6". Between sticks the Tiger's measurements were 8'-7" and 6'-2½".

The next morning it rained heavily again and we didn't leave camp till after luncheon and then devoted ourselves to general shooting and possible Bear. The result was three Barasingh and a Pig.

A Leopard was shot on the 12th, after padding which we beat for Bear and a Tiger that was seen to go into the 'gurh' patch, but none of these were at home. Rajey and Peter Sen arrived in camp on this date. The Forest Reserves produced nothing on the 13th, when the much-beaten Buffs beat us, and the 14th saw us at Peulaguri,



Jungle Scenery

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

whither we had gone on the off-chance of picking up a Tiger. We found oldish marks, but no Tiger. The fact is that about this time the Tiger were bent on game-killing tactics, and in consequence no *khubber* reached us, though I knew of the general whereabouts of several.

On the 15th we put up a Leopard in the first beat, which ought to have been bagged, but wasn't, and an unsuccessful beat after Bear followed. Next morning we went for a Leopard that had killed and eaten a small calf, and it also had cleared. After lunch we tried another small patch in hopes of getting a Bear out of it, and this time we found him at home. Bruin, who looked a fine big beast, opened proceedings by charging a pad Elephant and biting it badly on the trunk. He then came out to the stops who let him off, and he went straight for the 'gurh'. I was pretty certain this was not the first time by a long chalk

## SPORT WITH BEAR.

that we had come across this beast. However, we were to meet soon again for the last time.

I gave the Elephants a rest on the 17th, and in the afternoon went out a short way from camp to try and put up a Tiger that we heard had killed a Deer the day before. We didn't find him though.

At Bara Dogla, the following day, we came across fresh tracks of a Tigress that for her iniquities had earned the name of the "Demon." Unfortunately she had crossed over to the other side before we got there. Soon after ascertaining this, a fine Bear, which Elphinstone had all to himself, was turned out of a patch. He was an oldish Bear, and measured 6'-7" in total length, body 6'-6½", biceps 25", forearm 17¼", girth 55½", and weighed 378lbs.

Two Bear, a male and a female, were killed on the 19th, the former being our old acquaintance of the 16th. There was no doubt about this, as on

### SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

that date he had been fired at with a Paradox gun, and he was found with a fresh wound with a Paradox bullet inside him. The male Bear measured : full length  $6'-2\frac{1}{2}"$ , body  $5'-10\frac{1}{2}"$ , girth  $50\frac{3}{4}"$ , biceps height  $20\frac{3}{4}"$ , and forearm  $16\frac{1}{2}"$ . The



Crossing a jungle stream.

female was one of the largest I have seen and scaled 287lbs.

The 20th March was a thoroughly unsatisfactory day. We went to Jeypur and saw nothing,

## LEOPARDS.

not even tracks, except of Bear. In the second beat I believe a Bear was put up, but the "Gajeri" was too high to admit of anything smaller than a Rhino or a Buffalo being seen.

As the 21st was the festival of the "Eed," we didn't go out till after lunch, and the Bears we were then looking for didn't turn up. We got two Leopard and a Bear on the 22nd, the latter having a wonderfully good coat, and the shoot ended on the 23rd with two Barasingh and a Pig.

An extract from my diary says : "Tigers on the whole have beaten us, principally owing to the 'Gajeri,' which was too high for sport, and also to the number of Deer there are to kill. We are just three weeks too late to do any good, though there are plenty of Tiger about."

During May, Rajey, Nimrod (N. Sen), Ghose, Plowden and I went out for Leopard and killed three : two—a male and a female—at Naotara and

### SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

one near Kalighat. The male was a very big, heavy beast, and must have been close on 8', but unluckily I had not got the tape with me. The new 12-bore Paradox gun that I tried on this occasion proved a most excellent weapon, rolling the big Leopard over like a rabbit.

Later on in the year a 9'-5" Tiger was bagged.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1899.

*April and May.*

Animals.	April 10th- 23rd.	May.	Additional.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	2	.....	1	3
Leopard ... ..	3	3	.....	6
Rhino ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Buffalo ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bear ... ..	3	.....	.....	3
Bison ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sambhur ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Barasingh...	15	.....	.....	15
Hog Deer...	2	.....	.....	2
Antelope ... ..	... ..	.....	... ..	.....
Pig ... ..	6	.....	.....	6



## CHAPTER XVIII.

1900.

Commence the year with Leopards—The big Camp at Bara Dogla—Disappointing Days—The Phantom Tiger—A General Shoot—Change of Camp—A Brace of Tiger—"Runjit Singh" bitten—More Tiger—Mahout has a Narrow Shave.

1900. **T**OWARDS the end of January and beginning of February I had several little darts after Leopard, which resulted in the death of six, the largest 7'-9"—a cowardly beast—being killed at the Pilkhana. The others ranged in size from 7'-2" to 7'-7".

On the 10th February the big shoot commenced. On this occasion I was accompanied by Stavordale (now Lord Ilchester), Hyde (Lord), Colvin and E. Colvin, Hare, Tichborne, Baker-Carr, James, Hawkins, N. Sen, Sant and Sujey. The Maharani, Mrs. Colvin, Mrs. Hawkins, Miss Maclean, Sukriti and Victor were also with us.

### DISAPPOINTING RESULTS.

Hatashu and Boli told me that at Bara Dogla fifteen Buffalo had been killed in the last three weeks—one only three days before. So, as this sounded good enough, I was persuaded to go there the first day, with the disappointing result that not a Tiger was seen and only three Barasingh and a couple of Pigmy Hog bagged.

The next day's bag consisted of a Bear and three Sambhur. In the morning a start was made after a herd of fifteen Buffalo, one a very fine bull, which were said to be about six miles north of camp, but on reaching the place we found that they had all crossed over to the Reserves. The Bear was bagged in the first beat. He weighed 294lbs. The bigger of the Sambhur stag scaled 36 stone 7lbs.

Good Tiger *khubber* came in again from Bara Dogla, and though I rather think we had him in front of the line at one time, he was never actually viewed. And to think that we had abandoned a

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

promising chance of Buffalo and three Bear in order to have the pleasure of meeting him ! Fate seemed determined at this time that Tiger should best us on every occasion A stag Sambhur and



Where " Stripes " comes down to drink.

a Pig were shot.

We began the morning of the 13th by going to Pimulaguri after Buffalo, but they weren't on view.

## THE PHANTOM TIGER.

In the first beat we found fresh tracks of Tiger, but not the beast himself. I was told that a Tiger had paid a visit to the Pilkhana the night before. There were evidently plenty of Tiger about, but they wouldn't kill. I fancy we must have had a Jonah in camp about this time !

At last, on the 24th, a Tiger was brought to book close to Haldibari, and if we could only have got quite clear of our spell of bad luck, the result would have been much better. Four Tiger were actually turned out and sent past the guns, but the shooting was very difficult. In the first place half a gale was blowing, and, in the second, the patch of grass in which the Tiger were touched the forest, so that one could only get a snapshot as the beast bounded across.

The next day *khubber* of the "Phantom" Tiger at Bara Dogla again arrived. This time he was credited with having killed a Buffalo the previous evening. From all I could elicit, the

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

news sounded true enough, but it wasn't, as we found, on going out to negotiate for him, that no Buffalo had been killed at all. The day was saved from being a blank, however, by our bagging three Bear after lunch. They gave us lots of fun, the she-bear making it pretty hot for several of the line Elephants for a bit and actually mauling one.

The 16th was an absolutely blank day and—one tires of the constant repetition—we were again bested by a Tiger, an enormous beast, so Sujei told me, that roared at the advancing line before anyone was aware of his presence.

We had a general shoot on the 18th in the grasses between camp and Samuktola, bagging a Leopard, a Bear, two Sambhur, two Barasingh and a Hog Deer.

We had the same old tale again on the 18th. Excellent Tiger *khubber* and no result. As a matter of fact we found the kill—a Buffalo—

### CHANGE OF CAMP.

finished, and at least three Tiger had been on the "eat," though they had all left as soon as they had got a good meal inside them.

After all this, it was about time to change camp, which we did first to Roymana and then to Patgaon. A good many of the party left for Cooch Behar about this time, including the Maharani, the Hawkinses, Colvins, Baker-Carr and N. Sen.

Change of camp did not produce change of luck,—at any rate, for some days. On the night of the 20th February, a Tiger was heard roaring, and in the morning we had a try for him, but failed to find him. The 22nd was another blank day, though two Bison, a Rhino, a Tiger and one Elephant were seen. Sujei had two shots at the bull Bison and claimed to have knocked him over. The Elephant (Muckna) didn't seem in the least anxious to hurry away. Hatashu, the *shikari*, found himself face to face with a Tiger while

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

examining Rhino tracks. Gave him a bit of a start, I expect !

We had one more unlucky day, the 23rd, and then our run of evil fortune broke. The greater part of the 24th gave no greater promise than the



A\*Parade of Tuskers.

previous days, and we were returning in very low spirits when *khubber* was brought in of two Tiger being quite close. Both beasts showed sport, and both were padded within a quarter of a mile of camp.

## BRISKER SPORT.

The 25th gave us another Tiger. We were beating in the forest for Rhino, and the Tiger turned up in the first beat. He was full of courage and charged home on "Runjit Singh," giving him a bad bite over the eye. Another Tiger got through the line and the Rhino went past one of the guns, but at too great a distance to shoot at. The bagged Tiger measured 9' and weighed 315lbs. He was a youngish one.

I gave the Elephants a rest on the 26th, and in the afternoon, about 4 o'clock, went out for a bit to beat the grass and tree jungle out of which we had got the Tiger on the 24th. A Tiger had been heard roaring in that direction early in the morning, and luck did not desert us, for we had her—she was a Tigress—padded within three-quarters of an hour of leaving camp.

We bagged another Tigress and a Leopard the next day. The former was put up in the third beat before lunch, and I tracked her into a big



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

patch. The first time of asking, she got through the guns, cut across the river, and lay up in some long grass. On getting up to her, we found her savage enough. Before she was killed, she gave a lot of trouble, getting well home on "Bushiran" and as near as a toucher laying hold of the mahout. She measured 8'-10". The Leopard (7'-2" in length) was bagged in the general line on our way home. Altogether the day was a very lucky one, as though Ashton came across a bullock the Tigress had killed, no *khubber* whatever had been brought in. It is rather curious where the Tiger could have been. I saw very fresh footmarks myself, and it is quite possible he may have sneaked through the beat.

On returning to camp, we got *khubber* of another kill, so I sent out a man to find out if it had been eaten ;



Changing Camp : our Bed-room suite.

## THE YEAR'S RECORD.

and, as it turned out to have been so, we started out in great hopes the next morning, but the Tiger wasn't at home, and probably cleared out shortly before our arrival.

### RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1900.

Animals.	Between Jan. 27th and Feb. 2nd.	Feb. 10th-23th.
Tiger ... ..	...	6
Leopard ... ..	6	2
Rhino ... ..	...	...
Buffalo ... ..	..	...
Bison ... ..	...	...
Bear ... ..	...	5
Sambhur... ..	...	8
Barasingh ... ..	...	6
Hog Deer ... ..	...	5
Antelope ... ..	..	...
Pig ... ..	...	5*

\* Also two Pigmy Hogs. This shoot was continued till March 22nd. Details of the latter part are given under the next chapter.

## CHAPTER XIX.

1900—*contd.*

The same Shoot—Obstacles to Sport—Buffalo and Rhino—Two Light Tiger—On the Banks of the Saralbhanga—A Lost Opportunity—Tiger at Kachugaon—Four padded near Chota Bhalka—A Slice of Luck—Summary.

I HAVE taken up so much space in narrating the events of this shoot that it may be as well to commence the new month with a fresh chapter.

To continue, the 1st March was a long and hard day, spent in the nullahs south-west of camp beating for Tiger, but the whole place was so full of *fasan* that it was impossible to work it thoroughly, and the Tiger was probably left behind in some corner. I had sent Jemadar Asgar and Hatashu to the Aye River to find out how the land lay there, and they both returned on this date with a very depressing account. All the



Getting across Stream.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

good jungles appear to have been burnt, and the only thing left was to go for the game in Perrée's Preserves, which meant precious hard work.

I rested the Elephant on the 2nd, and went to the forest for Rhino and Buffalo on the 3rd. There nothing but fresh tracks were seen, and the next day we tried the banks of the Lanka, where we did better. A good number of big beasts were seen, including five Rhino, a bull Buffalo and several Bison. We actually bagged a bull Bison and a Rhino, and might—with any luck—have got two more Rhino. The bull Bison stood 17 hands 2", horns, from tip to tip along inside curve and across forehead, 69", base 20", and widest span 34".

Ghose joined us on the 5th, when we got a Tiger on the Saralbhanga River, about six miles south of camp, and Suffolk (the Earl of) arrived on the 6th, when another Tiger was padded. Neither beast gave any trouble, and though of a fair

### THE SARALBHANGA RIVER.

length, 9'-5" and 9'-2", both weighed light for their size, 379lbs. and 371lbs., respectively.

We started at 4 a.m. on the 7th to get to our ground, which lay near the Saralbhanga River, right on the boundary between the Government District and Bhutan. On arrival at about 10 a.m. we saw six Buffalo standing and lying about in the open. Luck favoured us and we got round them, bagging three, but we ought to have had the lot. A King Cobra was also killed.

Still shooting on the Saralbhanga, this time about three miles south of camp, we padded a fine massive Tiger on the 8th. He showed no fight for the best of reasons, in that he was given no chance of doing so. Measurements : length 9'-8", body 6'-7" (between sticks 9'-3" and 6'-2"), and weight 472lbs.

The 9th March was a blank, but it might well have been otherwise. We were shooting in the forest, and as we came on the line I saw a big

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

black beast feeding in front of me. We nipped off the howdahs and commenced a stalk. As we got up to about forty yards of him, the beast suddenly jumped round and galloped into the forest. The reason was clear enough. The Elephants, which I had left behind with positive orders not to come out of the jungle until a shot was heard, were within 150 yards. The mahouts declared one of the *shikaris* had told them to come on, and that *shikari*—wisely enough, perhaps—had made himself scarce! Another Bison got away on the right of the line; had the stop moved round towards the bed of the river, he might have got a shot. To make the tale of our lost chances complete, the luncheon Elephants came across two Tiger and several big beasts were put up on the way home.

The next day a “Mache”—confound him!—took us a wild goose chase after Rhino where none existed. After dinner I went out on the forest line and was lucky enough to get a shot at a



One of our Camps.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Bison, but the light was bad and I did not bag him.

Good *khubber* of a Tigress and cubs came from the forest on the 11th, but on getting there the jungle looked hopeless. One of the cubs, however, was bagged and the other fired at. As for the Tigress, it would have taken a De Grey to bag her in such a place.

After changing camp to Kachugaon, we had an absolutely blank day on the 13th, though two Rhino were turned out of the Dhoombarjhar jungles, which here again were practically unbeatable.

On the 14th, shooting north of Kachugaon, a pair of Tiger were bagged. Till lunch time nothing had been killed, and Suffolk left us immediately after. It was a pity he did not stay on, as on making a long line for home, the Tiger were almost at once put out of a small and rather isolated patch. Both beasts looked starved.

#### FOUR TIGER PADDED.

We again moved camp to Chota Bhalka on the 15th and five different *khubber* of Tigers were brought in that day, resulting in the padding of four on the 16th. The first Tiger was killed on the further side of the Sunkos. He showed no fight even when wounded, which perhaps was just as well, as the patch we had to beat him out of was a *fasan*. His measurements were :—Full length 9'-5", body 6'-1½" (between sticks 9' and 5'-½"), and he weighed 469. After lunch we went on to my new Preserves, where the second *khubber* had come from. Regarding this no kills had been reported, though some cows were said to have been lost. As a matter of fact we found five drags and came across three kills, so I expect at least seven or eight cattle must have been killed. To get on to business, however, four Tiger—up to date a record in these parts as to numbers—were turned out of the first patch beaten and three were bagged. The fourth might have been too, but I didn't expect

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

him, and was re-loading my Paradox when he caught me napping. Among those bagged was a Tigress, said to have killed a man last year.

The 17th was a nasty, windy day. There was good *khubber* of Bear, so we went to Chuckchuka after them, but saw nothing except a Barasingh fawn that was caught.

No news of game came in on the 18th, so we had a turn at Haldibari on the off-chance of putting something up, and we were rewarded with a Tigress and two Bear. The first two beats were blank, and while line was being formed for the third, Sujey came across a bullock just killed by a Tiger. I placed the howdahs round at once and the two Bear broke first and then the Tigress. All three were bagged.

Stavordale and Hyde left early next day and the same morning *khubber* came in of a Tiger having killed two cows at Bhalka on the Sunkos. We went out and very narrowly missed coming

### THE BHALKA TIGER.

across him, as the kills showed he had left a very short time before we got there. I returned to camp early as the Elephant needed a rest, and I had not intended to take them out that day.



Tame Buffaloes.

We had another try for the Bhalka Tiger on the 20th, and this time managed to pad him. The beat was nearly over, and I had almost made up

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

my mind that we weren't to see "Stripes" that day, when up he jumped with a roar and made a bee-line for one of the howdahs. He was knocked over though not killed. As he didn't seem able to move, I thought at first his back was broken. He was sitting up snarling at us. I never saw a more perfect picture of impotent fury. Tichborne was photographing him, when he gave another roar and came straight for my Elephant. I wasn't prepared for this, and he very nearly got home on "Indrajit." But the old Elephant kept him off with his tusks and just gave me time to bang off both barrels, which practically finished him. We had left camp at 7-15 a.m., and we had one Tiger shot within an hour from that time. He was 9'-2" in length (new method 8'-9"), body 6'-3" and weight 385lbs.

We heard of a Leopard on the morning of the 21st and went out, but things looked very dismal. The sky was overcast with heavy, black clouds,

### HEAVY RAIN.

and we had hardly begun to beat when down came the rain in torrents. We had to take refuge in a village till it cleared off a bit, which it did about half past twelve, and we then took up the piece of "null" again. The Leopard broke out from the patch we were beating and bolted into a heavy patch on the other side of the nullah. On beating this we not only put him up, but also three Bear, and bagged all the four within twenty minutes. A real slice of luck.

A general shoot, in which nothing particular was killed, occupied us on the 22nd, and the day after, I broke up camp.

The following remarks, written at the time, sum up my opinion on the sport as I found it :—

"There are a good number of Tigers round about, but they have been shot at and chased a good deal by village *shikaris* and are consequently very wild. Buffalo are few and far between, though there are a good many Bison. Deer have thinned

### SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

out terribly, the reason being that Tiger in the district have killed a lot and frightened the rest. Outside the Forest Reserves there are next to no Bears. The burning of the jungles on the Aye River prevented us going there. Had we been able to do so the bag—at any rate as regards Tiger—would probably have been much larger.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1900—*contd.*

Animals.	1st March to 22nd March.	March 29th, 30th.	Additional.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	11	...	...	11
Leopard ... ..	1	2	8*	11
Rhino ... ..	1	...	...	1
Buffalo ... ..	3	...	...	3
Bear ... ..	5	...	...	5
Bison ... ..	1	...	...	1
Sambhur ... ..	2	...	...	2
Barasingh ... ..	3	...	...	3
Hog Deer ... ..	3	...	...	3
Antelope ... ..	...	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	3	...	...	3

\* This summary is of the latter part of the shoot that commenced in February 10th. Details of the first part have been already given.



## CHAPTER XX.

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1901.

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Camp at Chuckchuka—Three Tiger bagged—Sambhur on the Jorai  
—An unlucky day—Big cow Rhino—Sport in the Forest Reserves—  
“Stripes” not at home—A magnificent Bison—A day with Buffalo.

**S**TARTING on the 1st March for Chuckchuka, my party included Grimston, Waldstein (Count) Mr. and Mrs. Heber Percy, James, Helbert, Tichborne, Raja of Pudokota, Beaumont, J. Ezra and Plowden. Such *khubber* as I had got was already four days old, but in lieu of anything better, we decided to go for it. The Tiger or Tigers, however, weren't at home, a disappointing result, inasmuch as the *shikari* told us when we got to the ground that the Tiger had fed on the kill the night before. It is just possible that the beast was left outside when the first line was made.



Preparing to start.

## SHOOTING IN COCCH BEHAR.

The next day we beat both banks of the Jorai, south of camp, for Tiger, but saw nothing—not even pugs. Plowden and Pudokota's brother caught five Mahaseer between them, varying in weight between six and fifteen pounds.

Good *khubber* came in from Falimari, about fourteen miles off, and we put up and bagged three Tiger, all in the same patch. The fourth, the mother of the family, was not apparently in the beat. I certainly only saw three come out from a smaller into a larger patch, though after we had left off shooting, and were on the way to another *khubber*, the men on the luncheon Elephants saw her slink away. Rather unfortunate, as had I had any idea there was another Tiger, I should have beaten the patch again and perhaps bagged her. At the time, however, we were hurrying all we knew to get to the second *khubber*—which seemed good, but turned out worthless—and so did not stop to think about possibilities.

“ NOT AT HOME.”

On the 4th, *khubber* came from Kumargaon, and on reaching the spot, there was no doubt it was perfectly good, though, for some reason or other, the Tiger had left the kill. We beat a good many patches for him without success, and only saved a blank day by killing a Leopard which was put up in the second beat. After lunch we met a Nepaulese boy who told us he had seen the Tiger heading for the Hamoa jungles, so we tried there, too, but without result.

On the 5th we worked the banks of the Jorai just outside the Forest Reserves, on the off-chance of finding Buffalo. The jungles looked good enough, and there were plenty of fresh tracks, but we saw no Buffs. Four Sambhur and a Hog Deer were shot, the largest Sambhur Stag weighing 43 stone 10lbs.

A Leopard was bagged on the 6th in the small patch of *null* under the Garad Haut trees. He lay very close, and it took four beats to get him out.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Five Barasingh were also shot in the "Batani" on the banks of the Jorai, opposite Garad Haut.

We did no shooting on the next two days, changing camp to Patgaon on the first and



**Moving Camp.**

utilising the second as a rest day for the Elephants.

The 9th was passed in a fruitless track after Tiger on the banks of the Saralbhangha River, south of camp. We put up nothing, not even a feather, and, to make a consistent finish to a

## RHINO.

thoroughly unlucky day, we lost our way back and didn't get home till 9 p.m.

The day following these misfortunes, we went to the Forest Reserves, where three Rhino were put up in the first beat. One, a cow, standing 17 hands 1" at the shoulder, was bagged. This is exceptionally large for a cow Rhino, and she had, moreover, the second longest horn ( $14\frac{1}{2}$ " ) I have ever seen. Another Rhino went away badly wounded and the third broke back through the line. A Tiger was also turned out on the left flank of the line, but most of us were then busy with the Rhino, and, as a matter of fact, I heard nothing about it until the beat was over.

We found and killed a fair Tiger on the 11th. We were again in the Forest Reserves. He was put up in the first beat, and had evidently been gorging himself on the carcase of a Bison close to where we bagged him. Full length  $9'-3\frac{3}{4}"$ ,

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

body 6'-4½" (between sticks 8'-9½" and 5'-10¼"), weight 461lbs.

We went on the 12th again to Saralbhangra in hopes of getting a chance at the Tiger we missed seeing on the 9th, but we did no better the second time as, beyond a wild cat and a lot of bad language, the result was *nil*.

A fine Bear, weighing 368lbs., was killed on the 13th in the Khas jungles to the north of our camp. We came across no other beasts, though there were any number of tracks of Bison, Buffalo and Tiger, one of the latter being so fresh that I really thought we were bound to turn him out.

The day after this we had just finished a second beat after lunch—having got nothing up to then—when one of my own *shikaris* came in to say that a Tiger had killed a bullock about an hour ago. Luckily the place was close by, and the Tiger was turned out in the first beat. He got through the



A Jungle Fire.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

stops, waited a bit in a patch of *null* put behind them and then took to the river. Beaumont killed him as he was swimming across, and as these jungles were in the very same *fasani* nullah that defeated us last year, this was probably the only chance we should have had of getting him.

Plenty of *khubber* came in on the morning of the 15th,—two of Tiger and one of Bear. The first sounded well. The man who brought in the news had actually seen the Tiger strike a bullock down, but he forgot to mention, what we found on arrival, that the kill was right out in the open paddy fields, miles away from either cover or water. By the time we reached the place vultures had finished the carcase, and as beating for the Tiger under these circumstances would have been like looking for a needle in a bundle of hay, we went on to where the Bear were supposed to be. Here we found lots of signs of them, but not

## BISON.

the Bear themselves, and, very disappointed, we turned homewards.

On the 16th we made straight for the place in the Forest Reserves where, last year, we had killed a Rhino and found fresh tracks of some seven or eight different Rhino and Bison, besides those of a Tiger, all leading into the patch we had intended working. Nothing was put up in the first beat, but in the next two Bison were bagged and two others seen. The Rhino probably remained behind on a flank of the line. During the beat we came across a young Rhino, killed by a Tiger, which must have been on the kill a very short time before, as we put him up soon afterwards. He was just seen and that was all, the jungle being too heavy to get a shot at him.

After giving the Elephants a day's rest, we started after Rhino and Bison on the 18th, but we had no luck. There were plenty of fresh Rhino tracks, but we couldn't somehow manage to come

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

up with the beasts themselves. Ashton got one shot at a bull Bison, and then his Elephant, "Smith," prevented his getting in another by turning round and bolting.

Jemadar Asgar brought in *khubber* on the 19th that couldn't have sounded better. He had



Human Vultures.

actually seen the Tiger kill a cow and drag it into the jungle. And yet, in spite of all this, we never saw the Tiger. The place was eleven miles off, and we beat the patch where the beast should have been lying, but we found the kill entirely eaten and "Stripes" had left. The pug marks seemed to show that there were two Tiger, and if

### PLENTY OF GAME AFOOT.

this was the case, it accounts for the kill being finished up so soon. On the way home, the leading gun came up with a small herd of Bison. All got away except a young one.

Tracking early in the morning of the 20th, Beaumont and Plowden came across a herd of 16 Bison. They bagged the bull, which stood 17 hands 2" at the shoulder.

At 3 a.m. on the 21st I started off four different parties tracking, and though only one bull Bison was killed, no less than thirty-four head of big game were actually seen during the day. In the morning the four lots put up one Elephant, one Rhino, one bull Buffalo, ten Bison, a Bear and a Tiger. With a bit of luck Grimston and Beaumont might have bagged the Rhino. In the afternoon Beaumont and Pudokota went off together and came across and bagged the big bull Bison we have been after for a year past. Grimston, Sujey and Nimrod (N. Sen) came up

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

with a herd of eighteen Bison, which all got away. The bull Bison that was killed was a magnificent beast in the prime of life. He stood 18 hands 3" at the shoulder, girth 120", largest girth 128", neck nearest body 90", neck close to head 66", length 12'-2", body 9'-5½", height at hump 19 hands 1¼". Thirteen 10-bore shots were fired into him at 30 yards, and even then he wasn't dead, though practically so. They told me he simply stood still while they pumped in lead.

On the 22nd I moved the camp to Doragaon and gave up the 23rd as a rest day for the Elephants.

Two Tigress were bagged on the 24th, and both padded before lunch. The first one killed was 7'-8" in length, but was somewhat bigger than this would imply, as her tail was only 2'-7". The other one was rather larger. I have noticed that the Tiger in this district, as well as in Patgaon, generally run small, though there are some big

## BUFFALO.

ones amongst them. The jungles, too, about here were not easy on account of the numerous *fasanz* nullahs that intersect them; on the other hand, they were not so large as those we had last been shooting in.



Sonthalis.

On the 25th we got three Buffalo a couple of miles north of camp on the Champamoti River. One of them, a fine cow with goodish horns, got home on me and chased me about for a bit. There were ten beasts in the herd, a fine bull amongst them, but he did not show himself to the guns.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The next day I had intended having another turn at the Buffalo, but changed my mind on hearing that good Tiger *khubber* had been brought. The man who came with the news described the whole incident connected with the kill so graphically that I was bound to believe him. On getting to the ground, however, I found that by far the greater and most important part of his tale was pure embroidery. A Tiger had killed a bullock, but had been driven off by the villagers, and we hadn't the slightest clue as to where he was likely to be. The Buff ground was too far for us to revert to the original plans, so there was nothing for it but to beat likely patches, an amusement that palled after a bit as nothing was turned out. Pudokota, Tichborne and Helbert left camp on this date.

I see from my shooting diary that from the 26th March to the end of the month, the only thing shot was one Pigeon. My inclination is

## DULL DAYS.

certainly to skip over this dull time as I have done before and get on to a better. As, however, I have invariably recorded all our good days, so I think should those which are very much the reverse



**In a Jungle Stream.**

be sometimes set down in detail, uninteresting reading though they are. What occurred on the first of these blank days has already been written, and I will now go on to the next, the 27th, when we



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

again tried for Buff. In the first beat a small bull was put up, not worth shooting, so we let him alone. Several patches, in which were lots of fresh tracks, were beaten during the day, but nothing in the shape of a living beast seen, though we did find the skeleton of a big tusker, which, I rather fancy, had been shot by P—.

I gave the Elephants a rest on the 28th and utilised the spare time by sending off Boli and Hatashu to try and locate the game. They returned in the evening to say that the beasts had gone deep into the jungle miles away. As this did not sound promising, I moved camp on to Patgaon, and early on the 30th started Waldstein and Percy off tracking. They nearly got up to a Rhino, though not close enough to get a shot. In the afternoon we went after a bull Bison that had been seen in the morning. He came out of the jungle—too far off for us to get a shot—and then moved on to an open burnt space. We waited till

## A NIGHT SHOOT.

the moon rose, and then tried to get up to him. But he had evidently taken a hand in this sort of game before, and got off in time to save his horns. After dinner, hearing that two bull Buffalo were in the habit of coming into Moni Ram's tame herd, I sat up till 3 a.m., saw nothing and then retired a bit fed up.

We tried another night shoot on the 31st, starting just before sunset and taking up positions along the forest line. I sent Boli up a tree to warn us if any beast approached, and in about half an hour he gave the signal. Almost immediately after I heard a bull Bison lowing and also a Tiger, but the latter was a long way off. Presently I saw Boli beckon to me to get near his tree, and on doing so he had just time to tell me he had counted seventeen Bison when I heard them crashing all round me. The leader of the herd came out, but the others would not follow, and after waiting a quarter of an hour, I whistled to

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Percy to fire. He did so and I saw the Bull stagger to the shot, but together with the rest of the herd he disappeared into the *null* and grass, and though I beat for him with the pad Elephant, we lost him. The whole affair was disappointing. At one time I could see three Bison not fifteen yards off. One, the hindmost, looked like a big bull, but as I could not make sure, I decided to wait and so lost a fairish chance. Some of the others must have been even close to Percy, who, like myself, was standing behind a Simul tree. Beaumont told me that the first beast I saw was a good bull, and as he was slowly feeding up to him, he wisely decided to wait before firing. Of course he did not know that there was a big herd of Bison close up. Just before I left my post to speak to Boli, I saw Nimrod (N. Sen) leave his and join James. I could not understand it at the time, but he gave me good enough reasons for his action. He was on foot, all by himself, on the extreme left of the line, when he

### WHAT WE SAW.

saw a big Tiger moving towards him and naturally enough concluded his isolation was a bit too splendid! On comparing notes I found that Beaumont and Waldstein had seen one bull



A Line of Elephants meeting light Grass.

Bison, a Bear and a Sambhur Stag, Nimrod a Tiger and Percy and myself two bull Bison, besides the three in the grass. If I hadn't signalled to Percy to fire, we should probably have seen nineteen Bison, a Tiger, a Bear and a

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Sambhur Stag. We were all on foot and our posts were about 150 yards apart. As we had only hoped for a shot at the bull, it was extraordinary our coming across so many beasts. It was rather bad luck bagging nothing, but I think I ought to have placed the guns differently.

# RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1901.\*

Animal.										March 1st to 31st.
Tiger	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Leopard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rhino	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Buffalo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bison	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bear	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sambhur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Barasingh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hog Deer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Antelope	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pig	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

\* The remainder of this shoot is given in the next chapter.

## CHAPTER XXI.

1901.

*April and May.*

The shoot continued—A big cow Bison—Great sport in the Doombar Jhar Khas jungles—Camp at Haldibaree—Two Bison bagged—A fighting Tigress—Shooting on the Manas.

ON the first of the new month, I changed camp to Roymana. Percy, accompanied by Jemadar Bisad, started off to try and get the beast he wounded in our night skirmish with the Bison, and, as it turned out, he had quite an adventure, which he was lucky to get out of as well as he did. It seems they found blood very soon, so Percy and the Jemadar got off the Elephant and commenced tracking in the grass. They had not gone far when the beast sprang up and charged. Percy first managed to jump out of the way, and as the Bison went past, placed a bullet in the neck and another in the

# SOME RECORD BISON HEADS.



Bull 78½" Horns.  
Shot 1901.

Cow 71½" Horns.  
Shot 1902.

Bull 68" Horns.

Bull 84" Horns.  
Shot 1902.

Bull 81½" Horns.

Bull 73" Horns.

Bull 76½" Horns.  
Shot 1899.

Cow 73½" Horns.  
Shot 1902.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

quarters. This finished *her*, for instead of a bull, as Percy, Ashton and I had believed her to be, she proved to be a very big cow. She was turned out of a place about fifty yards from the forest line, so we must have been very near putting her up with the pad Elephant.

We had a great day in the Doombar Jhar Khas jungles on the 2nd April. In the second beat, two Rhino came out between Percy and me. He got the first three shots and between us one was soon finished off. The other was too small to shoot and too big to catch, so we let him run. A Bison jumped up in the fourth beat, quite close on my left, but for some time I couldn't catch sight of him, and when I did, only saw the tips of his horns. He was then galloping for dear life. I had three snapshots and Nimrod four, but he gave us the slip. A few more Bison were turned out; one broke through the line and the other—a good bull—went to Waldstein, who bagged him.

## GREAT SPORT.

Beating the same patch again, two more Rhino got up and Waldstein had five shots at a bull. Some one mistook him for a Tiger, and word was passed down the line to that effect. Seeing a lot of confusion among the line Elephants, I concluded that the Tiger was playing "Old Harry" with them, so hurried up to help with my 12-bore Paradox in hand and met a beast coming towards me. I only just realised it was a Rhino in time to change my rifle and let fly a couple of shots. The moment I had hit him I knew by his making no noise that he was a young Rhino, as old ones nearly always grunt, and I was sorry I had fired. However, looking back, I can't blame myself much, for it was a matter of seconds and there was no time to think. We followed him up, but didn't see him again. Waldstein had, as it turned out, fired at the other Rhino, so that there were now two wounded. After lunch we had a beat for Waldstein's Rhino, which, after putting up a Bison that got away

### SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

without being fired at, I came right on to ; the beast charged at once and I finished him. I found that Waldstein had hit him quite in the right place, and it was surprising that he should have had a charge left in him.

The first Rhino stood 17 hands and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the shoulder. I didn't measure the other Rhino, but if anything he was the larger of the two. The bull Bison stood 18 hands at the shoulder ; horns, tip to tip round curve and across forehead,  $71\frac{7}{8}$ ", base  $19\frac{1}{3}$ ".

We devoted the 3rd April to a general shoot north-east of the Doombar Jhar Khas jungles, which produced one Sambhur Stag, two Barasingh Stag and a Bear which we found on the way home.

On the 4th we moved camp to Haldibari, and on the 5th beat the Muktaigaon Reserves for Bison. Two were put up in the first beat, but

## WIND AND RAIN.

neither showed himself. In the second beat a Sambhur Stag was bagged. After lunch, while going from one heavy patch of *null* to another, a Bison jumped up, but was out of sight like a flash. I made an attempt to cut him off, but did not succeed.

On the 6th we beat a patch for a Bear that the *shikaris* had seen go in, but he was not at home, or at any rate we did not put him out. We got caught in a big storm of wind and rain, and on reaching camp found some of the tents blown down, mine amongst the number.

Two Bison were bagged in the old Dhoompara Forest on the 7th and several others were put up, but these were not fired at.

Plowden joined us on the 8th and the same day we got a Tiger. There was no *khubber*, but as I came across fresh tracks in one of the small churs on the Raidak, north of the Tiamari Ghat, I put in the Elephants and Percy shot him.

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



River and Jungle in the Forest Reserves.

### SALSARABARI.

Camp was changed to Salsarabari on the 9th, and the next day we bagged a couple of Leopard and a Bear. In the same patch in which the second Leopard was killed, we also found the carcase of a cow, evidently killed by a Tiger, but we had not time to look him up.

The 11th was occupied in a fruitless search after a Tiger that had been marked down. On getting to the place the look-out men, who had been posted on trees, said that the Tiger had moved into another patch. We beat that and several other patches for him, but did no good. One of the *Begari* Elephants got stuck in a *fasan*, and we had a great deal of difficulty in extricating him.

*Khubber* of Tiger, which proved good, was brought in on the 12th, and just at the end of the beat she walked out to me and I bowled her over, first shot. She rolled about a good bit, and

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

I kept pulling at the trigger to finish her, not realising till too late that I was not using a single-trigger gun. Suddenly recovering herself, she dashed down the bank out of sight. I knew she was badly hit, and on the line coming up, told Jemadar Asgar to take it in and, if dead, to pick her up or let me know if she was inclined to be "ugly." I was standing on the top of the bank at this time, and "Tangru" called out that the Tiger was lying on its side. I shouted out to them to back out the Elephants and let me have a look at the beast. The words were hardly out of my mouth when the Tigress drove out the elephants and charged home on the Jemadar's mount. Her teeth were fastened on the pad, and the Jemadar, by the greatest piece of luck, was just clear of her. I told the Jemadar and mahout to jump off, which they did, and I put two shots into the Tigress while still hanging on to the pad. The second one finished her, and as she dropped off dead, the Elephant set to work pound-

### A NARROW SQUEAK.

ing her. The men, especially the Jemadar, had a very narrow squeak, but, beyond a scratch in the ear, the Elephant was uninjured. I found my first bullet, a 12-bore Paradox firing  $4\frac{1}{2}$  drams of powder, had hit her exactly on the right spot, and why it did not kill her dead I cannot understand.

Shooting on the 13th, I believe we had a Tiger in the beat, and if so he got through. We had a lot of trouble on the 14th getting a Leopard ( 7'-1" ) out of the Warsi nullah and jungles and round about the "Gurh." He wouldn't break cover, and we had to beat four times for him before he was bagged.

On the 15th two Tiger were padded. Both were started in the same beat. The first was disposed of without much trouble, but the second looked as if he was going to show fight. All he really wanted though was to save his skin. He doubled about like a Leopard, and like the one



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

killed the day before required four beats to get him.

I broke up camp on the 17th, but Beaumont and Arthur shot on through parts of April and May on the banks of the Manas, the place Pollok



Amusement in Camp.

wrote about. They made a goodish bag, killing one Rhino, two Buffalo, five Bison, one Sambhur, a Barasingh and a Hog Deer. Beaumont told me there were plenty of Rhino, Buffalo and Bison, also an occasional Tiger, but that they had

## THE BAG.

got there a month too late for the cream of the shooting, which, in their case, was all tracking.

### RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1901.—*contd.*

Animals.	* April 1st, 16th.	Part of April and May.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	4	...	4
Leopard ... ..	3	...	3
Rhino ... ..	2	1†	3
Buffalo ... ..	...	2†	2
Bison ... ..	4	5†	9
Bear ... ..	2	...	2
Sambhur ... ..	3	1†	4
Barasingh ... ..	4	1†	5
Hog Deer ... ..	1	1†	2
Antelope ... ..	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	5	...	5

\* This was a continuation of the shoot that commenced on the 1st March.

† Shot by Beaumont and Arthur.

## CHAPTER XXII.

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1902.

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### *January and March.*

A January Shoot—The annual Expedition—A good start with Tiger, Rhino and Buffalo—The record Tiger—Change of Camp—Luck leaves us for a bit—Rhino in the Daimasi—Bison—A real good Day—Record bag of Bison.

1902.

I MANAGED to arrange a preliminary shoot this year before the big one, and starting on the 21st January my party included Mr. and Mrs. Pelham-Clinton, Colonel and Mrs. Burn, Colonel and Mrs. Baird, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest, Miss Elphinstone, Miss Mackenzie, Helmsley (Lord), Colvin, James and Jit.

The shoot, so far as I was concerned, ended on the 30th January, on which date I returned to Cooch Behar. Some of the party, however, remained on till the 5th February. Nothing of any very special interest occurred, and as my

### THE BOGIDARA CAMP.

manuscript has already reached rather formidable dimensions, I will limit myself to giving the main results. There were six Tiger, two Leopard, two Bear, two Buffalo and two Hog Deer.



The 1902 Party.

For the annual expedition my camp was pitched at Bogidara on the banks of the Manas. We, that is, Orr-Ewing, Sir B. Simpson, A. Ezra, Villiers (Lord), James, Blackett, Richards, N.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Sen, Sujey, Jit and myself commenced shooting on the 4th March.

We made a good beginning, bagging three Tiger the first day. This was close to Hala-



1908 Shoot.

pakri, about 15 miles south-east of camp, and we covered the distance on pad Elephants in three and a half hours. The Tigers gave a certain amount of fun, but we had no difficulty in disposing of

### A FINE BULL RHINO.

them. The Tigress was a fine beast and measured 9'-1" in length, body 6' and weight 330½ lbs.

We had a long try after Buffalo on the 5th, but did not manage to meet them. Two of them were bagged, however, at Gosiengaon the next day in addition to a fine bull Rhino that measured between sticks as follows: length 12'-9", body 10'-5½", girth 118", greatest girth 144", and height 17 hands 2½". A Tiger and several other Buffalo were put up, but all these got clean away.

A bull Buffalo was bagged on the 7th. We had hoped to come across the herd, but they had evidently moved off. We put up a Tiger in a beat after lunch, but the jungle was very wide and the Elephants were kept 20 yards apart, so it is not surprising that he got through the line.

On the 8th we worked the *churs* north of camp for Buffs without getting up to them that day, but we killed three cow on the next in the same

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



The 10'5" Tiger.

### MY LONGEST TIGER.

place. The bull was wounded, and though we chased him over all sorts of country, from one patch to another and across rivers, he bested us in the end. I shall always believe that had I stuck to my own plans instead of listening to Hatashu's suggestions, we would have got him.

The 10th March will always stand out in my memory as the date on which at Bholkadota Holkadoba, I bagged the longest Tiger by two inches that I have ever seen. He gave no trouble whatever, behaving, in fact, like a coward. His measurements are as follows: total length 10'-5", body 6'-11", girth 51", upper arm 26", forearm 18½", head 36", height 41", and weight 504lbs. Between sticks he measured 9'-10½". Before this my longest Tiger, 10'-3", it may be remembered, was killed at Samerdanga in Assam on the 14th March 1894. After padding the great beast we went after another *khubber* of Tiger, but though



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

I believe there were two of them, we didn't put them up in either of the two beats.

The 11th was a blank day in spite of a long chase after a Tiger which the *shikaris* had seen, and on the 12th I gave all in camp a rest.

After the rest we had a good day's sport, killing a Tiger and a Tigress,—the one before and the other after lunch. Neither gave us any trouble.

At Gosiengaon on the 14th we had a beat for Buffs, but saw none. On the way home a Bear, weighing 304lbs., was killed in the last patch. We tried the same place again on the 15th, and this time put up two Tiger and several Buffalo, but luck was against us. Both Tiger were fired at, and one, I believe, hit. They escaped us, however, as did the Buffs, among which was a big bull seen by the *shikaris* though not by us.

A party of trackers bagged a cow Buffalo on the 16th, and on the 17th I moved camp to Lahapara

## FORTUNE AGAINST US.

From this place we tried the Rangapani jungles, where, after a long chase, we managed to head a herd of Buffalo and bag two. A Tiger was also turned out. He slipped into another patch, and after lunch we followed him and again put him up. Twice he faced the open, and though he was fired at he bested us completely.

At this time we were evidently in the throes of another spasm of bad luck, for the 20th was another blank day. It had rained heavily during the night and we did not move from camp till mid-day. In spite of the want of *khubber*, things looked hopeful when we came across a fresh Tiger kill in the shape of a dead Barasingh, but a beat showed us that the Tiger had slipped away. I had sent out Hatashu and Boli early in the morning for news of Buffs, and they were to have met us in the course of the day to tell us how the land lay. We missed each other somehow, and I only learned, on return to camp, that Boli had got some Buffs marked

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Straight-born cow Buffalo Horns 10'-3"; between Tips 8'-4".  
Presented to the Natural History Museum, Kensington.

### A PRODUCTIVE PATCH.

down for us. After this wasted day, my feelings were more easily imagined than described.

What happened on the 21st and 22nd may be given in a sentence. Rain spoiled every chance of sport and we had none. With the 23rd came a change of luck, and not before it was wanted. Shooting on the Daimasi, we got one Bear, a bull Rhino and two cow Rhino. I distinguished myself letting off a Rhino, a fairly easy shot too! We turned all the beasts that were killed out of the same patch—a very big one—and saw others in it as well, including a fourth Rhino and a bull Bison.

At the north end of Dhun Bheel, inside the tree jungle, a herd of Bison and a herd of Buffalo had been marked down, so on the 24th we went for them and bagged two Bison, a cow and a bull. The Buffalo, as usual, made themselves scarce before we got there. The bull Bison's horns were 70" and 18½" at the base.

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Being Padded.

### A RATTLING GOOD DAY.

On the 25th we worked the beats in much the same direction again, and had a rattling good day with Rhino and Bison, killing two of each. Two Rhino got away—one very badly wounded—as did also a very fine bull Bison. The two Buffs were part of a large herd which we found lying out in the open. The greater number got clear off, but four came towards the stops, and of these—with Simpson's help—I got two. Altogether we saw during the day five Rhino, eleven Buff and six or seven Bison. Of those bagged, the bull Rhino looked a very big beast, but I hadn't time to measure him; one of the Buffs was killed with a cordite bullet when galloping fully 300 yards away.

Next morning early we started off to try and pick up the wounded animals of the day before, but all three had gone clean away.

The morning wasn't ill-spent as it turned out, for we picked up a fair bull Bison instead. We were back in camp by 1 o'clock.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

One bull and two cow Bison fell to us on the 27th in a small tree jungle north-west of Dhun Bheel. We saw plenty of fresh Bison tracks, but being quite satisfied with our bag I resolved to keep the Rhino for another day.



A record day's Bag of Bison—3 bulls and 8 cows.

The last days of March witnessed some of the best sport I have ever had in my life, and records were made which, I believe, stand till the present day.

## RECORD BAG OF BISON.

To commence with the 20th, we didn't go after the Rhino of the previous day, as between thirty and forty Bison had been marked down at a place north-east of Dhun Bheel. It was here that we shot the two Bison on the 24th. On taking up our positions, I was the last flank stop on the east side, and as it chanced the whole herd came out in a procession past me, ending up with two bull which I killed in addition to a very fine cow. Before we had done with them, eleven Bison, three bull and eight cow, were down, a record bag of Bison for one day. The largest bull stood 17 hands  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " at the shoulder and 18 hands  $3\frac{3}{4}$ " at the hump; the horns were 77" round the curve and  $18\frac{3}{4}$ " at the base. The largest cow stood 17 hands  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and had horns of  $73\frac{1}{4}$ " round curves, which, I am inclined to think, is also a record. A Sambhur Stag completed the bag.

After such a day, man and beast deserved a rest and nothing was done till the 30th, when a





Record cow Bison with 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Horns, shot March 28th, 1902.

### **SPLENDID BULL BISON.**

magnificent bull Bison with the record head for this part of the country was killed. He stood 18 hands  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " at the shoulder, 19 hands 3" at the hump.



**The Record bull Bison, 1902 Shoot.**

Between sticks his full length was 12'-3", body 9'-5", and girth behind shoulder 118". His horns were : round curves 84", left horn base  $20\frac{2}{3}$ ", right horn base 21", between points  $31\frac{1}{4}$ ", in greatest

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

spread outside 43". The Elephant, "Kennedy," had a tremendous turn up in the jungle with this bull Bison, and gave him a terrible pounding, though he got gored badly in two or three places himself. There were two or three other Bison and several Buffalo in the same beat the big bull was bagged in, but all except a cow Buffalo got away.

The month ended with a great Tiger day at Kamalabari. Four were put up in a long strip of jungle, and though we had some trouble with them, all were bagged. On the way home I got a Bear, and a second one escaped.

We had by this date completed exactly a fortnight's shooting at Lahapara, and though from 19th to the 22nd little or nothing was bagged, taking the whole 14 days together, thirty-three head of big game were killed. With such a bag one would naturally expect the country to be depleted of beasts worth shooting, but this was not

## THE RECORD.

so. So far as one could judge, the district remained full of big game, including a fair number of Tiger.

### RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1902.

Animals.						Jan. 21st to Feb. 5th.	Mar. 1st to 31st.	Total.
Tiger	...	...	...	...	...	6	10	16
Leopard	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Rhino	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	6
Buffalo	...	...	...	...	...	2	12	14
Bison	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	18
Bear	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Sambhur	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Barasingh	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Hog Deer	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Antelope..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pig	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

## CHAPTER XXIII.

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1902—*contd.*

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Still at Lahapara—Big Bull-*Buffalo*—Five Tiger in two days—*Rain* and "Gajari" spoil sport—Bested by the *Buffalo*—A record Tigress—Summary of the Shoot.

I HAD originally intended to leave Lahapara on the 1st April, but Boli artfully played on my feelings by holding out hopes of bagging a really good bull *Buffalo* on the Dannara nullah. I fancy he knew I wanted to make the Lahapara bag quite complete, so I put off the move for a day and tried for the bull instead. As luck would have it, we had the bull down and done for in the very first beat. He was not a very tall beast—17 hands 1", but heavily built. These are the measurements : total length between sticks 12'-6", body 9'-4 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", girth 110", biggest girth 130", round neck nearest body 92", neck close to head 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

## SPORT WITH TIGER.

After moving to Halapakri we killed a short-tailed, rather heavily built Tiger about 4 miles west of camp. *Khubber* of another Tiger came in, but it was too far off to manage the same day, so we left it for the morrow. Poor "Bhup Bahadur," a young Elephant, had to be left behind in the jungle suffering from apoplexy.

The 4th April was another splendid day with Tiger. We killed a Tigress and two cubs on the Mora Manas in the morning, only about a mile from camp, and a fourth Tiger close to Roha Thamia after lunch. The Tigress was an exceptionally fine beast, 9'-3" in length, equalling a previous record. This made a total of five Tiger in the two days,—distinctly good sport.

Orr-Ewing, Simpson (Sir Benjamin), Blackett, and Nimrod (N. Sen) left on the morning of the 5th, when I gave the Elephants a rest. *Khubber* of two Bear was brought in the afternoon, and at 4-30 p.m.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

we went out and, after an animating quarter of an hour, bagged them both.

We got excellent *khubber* on the 6th, the kill dragged into the jungle and so on; and full of



Making himself useful in Camp.

hope we started for a place five miles west of camp. The Tigress—as she was said to be—had, however, evidently been hunted before, for she slipped away before we could circumvent her.

## RAIN DEFEATS US.

We had besides certain difficulties to contend with. The jungle was large, and a nullah, with jungle close up to it, made it hard to place the howdahs properly.

We had a general shoot on the 7th, in which we did no good owing to the "gajari" being so high, and on the 8th tried the Kalibhanga jungles for Buffalo. Here again we were unsuccessful. It rained practically the whole day; the jungle, where the Buffalo had been located, was a huge "Jheel," and the patch we eventually found them in was enormous. The rain and the heavy going made rapid movement impossible, and the moment we started to beat, the Buffalo broke through the line.

I had intended giving the Elephants a rest on the 9th, but a villager ran into camp to say that he had just heard a Tiger roaring about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile off. I could not resist this, so went out, and as we



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

saw nothing, wished I hadn't, for the Elephants would have been all the better for a day off.

We heard of Bear in the morning of the 10th, but heavy rain prevented us going for them till after lunch. Then we killed two about a mile south-east of camp. Meanwhile a Tiger had been tracked into another patch, and after bagging the Bear we had a beat for him. The patch, however, was too big for the number of Elephants, and, though I believe he was there, we did not manage to turn him out. There was a slight shock of earthquake on this date.

There being no news of game on the 11th, we had a general shoot, but the "gajari" again spoiled it. Practically the same thing happened the next day, but in this case we should have done better to remain in camp, as on our return we found that *khubber* of two different Tiger had been brought.

### A RECORD TIGRESS.

On the 13th we went for the previous day's *khubber*. They both came from the Bakie River, about 2 miles apart from one another.



"Rattanpershad" carrying a Boar.

The Tigress walked out first, quite quietly, and was soon bagged. She proved to be another record, being  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " longer than any Tigress

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

yet shot. Length 9'-5½", body 6'-2½", girth 42", upper arm 20", forearm 15", height 35". Her weight was not taken. The Tiger looked at one time as if he was going to give a lot of trouble, but he was too hard hit, and directly I heard him groaning, I knew that it was all up with him. He measured 9'-8" in length, body 6'-6", height 41¾" and weight 413lbs. Why he weighed so little I can't now understand, as, judging by his appearance, I expected him to scale about 480lbs.

This turned out to be the last day of the shoot, rain preventing us doing any more. The following is extracted from the diary :—"So ends one of the best shoots I have ever had. Sixty-one head of big game, which include several records. Our bag of Tiger—seventeen—has been exceptionally good, and had we been luckier four more might have been added to the total. On the whole the Buffalo have scored off us. Rainfall has been abnormally heavy for the time of year, and

### A GOOD AVERAGE.

besides having rained many nights, has on eight days prevented our shooting, but I don't feel at all inclined to complain. We have actually shot on 32 days, and have averaged very nearly two head of big game a day besides eight Stags.

# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1902—*contd.*

Animals.						April 1st- 13th.*	Dec. 12th.	Total.
Tiger	...	...	...	...	...	7	1†	8
Leopard	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rhino	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Buffalo	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	1
Bison	..	...	...	..	..	...	...	...
Bear	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
Sambhur...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Barasingh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hog Deer	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
Antelope	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pig...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1

\* The shoot, of which this is a continuation, commenced on the 4th March.

† This Tiger was killed at Paltakhua by me and a small party.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

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1903.

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Four Leopard to start with—A Couple of Tiger—Long Python killed—An unlucky Day—"Stripes" bests us again—We kill a grand Tiger—One Patch produces a mixed Bag—The Albino Buffalo—A Tame Finish.

FOR the big shoot this year, I had as my guests Lord and Lady Lonsdale, Lady Locke-Elliot, Miss Baird, Ingestre (Lord), Colvin, Reginald Herbert (Lord), Mr. and Mrs. Leveson-Gower, Forrest, Miss Elphinstone, Harold Brassey, E. Ezra, Rajey, Lyon, Victor, Wood, Li Pape and Graham White. The Maharani joined us in camp a day or two later.

We began shooting on the 15th February with a beat for Tiger, but as the *khubber* was four days old and the jungle exceedingly difficult, we could not reasonably expect very much. As a matter of fact we never saw him, though the Elephants

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

jibbed at one time as if there was some animal in the grass.

We broke our luck on the 11th by bagging four Leopard, and on return to camp found that Dr. James had arrived and *khubber* of Tiger had come in.

Fresh *khubber* of Tiger was brought the following morning, and this we elected to pursue as the place, Peitkapara, was nearer than that reported on the previous day. In the first beat we turned the Tiger out and wounded him, and killed him in the second. He measured in length  $9'-6\frac{3}{4}"$ , body  $6'-5\frac{1}{2}"$  and weighed 448lbs. This brought us up to lunch, and while discussing it another Tiger *khubber* arrived from Mandibari. We were just in time to bag him, for by the time the stops were placed, he was already on the move, making for the Forest Reserves. The second Tiger was a good long one,  $9'-10\frac{1}{2}"$  full length with a body

TOPSIKATA DRAWN BLANK.

6'-8½". He only weighed 408lbs., very light for a Tiger of his length.

On the 21st a Leopard was killed close to camp,



Going to the meet, Topsikata Camp.

and the 22nd, at Topsikata, proved a long day after a Tiger that had killed a bullock close to the Reserves and apparently went back into the forest before we got there.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Another Leopard was killed on the 23rd. Before starting we had *khubber* both of Leopard and Bear, and we chose the former. In the first beat, two Leopards were put up and both were fired at and cleared out ; a third and fourth beat failed to put them up again. One, however, was picked up dead, a day or two afterwards.

The 24th was very nearly a repetition of the previous day, with this difference that the Leopard did not show up at all. A Leopard was shot each day on the 25th and 26th, and on the latter date we had an unsuccessful beat for Bear. We ought to have been getting lots of *khubber* of Tiger at this time, but hardly any came in, though I knew there were several knocking about.

A general shoot on the 27th resulted in the death of five Pig and a Python 16'-10" long. At last on the 28th *khubber* of Tiger from Topsikata was brought in, and it certainly sounded good

### A GENERAL SHOOT.

enough. The beast, evidently a great big one, had dragged a Buffalo for nearly 300 yards over very rough ground. On our arrival, however, I discovered that a sportsman from Alipur had already had a shot at him, so it is little wonder that we didn't come across him. Judging from his pugs he must have been a huge beast.

We had a day off on the 1st March, a general shoot on the 2nd, in which two Barasingh Stags, a Hog Deer, and a couple of Pig were bagged, and on the 3rd changed camp to the Raidak, feeling that the Topsikata Tigers had thoroughly done us. By this time many changes had taken place in our party. The Leveson-Gowers, Lady Locke-Elliott, White, Li Pape, Ingestre and Herbert, had all left camp, while Lumsden and the two Phipps had joined us.

From our new camping ground, we started on the 4th March for the jungle near the Gurh, to beat for Bear. A fairly good one was bagged, as

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

well as a big bulky Boar that stood  $35\frac{3}{4}$ " at the withers.

After resting the Elephants on the 6th, we went the next day to Jeypore in hopes of a Tiger. A



The Guns at the and Camp, Raidak.

Bear was first put up and bagged with a cub clinging to her, which we captured. The Tiger proved to be just outside the beat, and at one time must have been quite close to the howdahs. Probably the firing at the Bear disturbed him, for

#### DISAPPOINTING RESULTS.

his tracks, which we afterwards came across, showed that he had made off at a gallop. After lunch another Bear was turned out, but charged back through the line of beaters, and though we tried, we could not turn him out again. On beating an adjoining patch, to my surprise, a Tigress jumped up. The stops had a chance at her, but she was let off. By this time the light had gone and we were forced to stop. Altogether it was rather a disappointing day, for we might with luck have had a really good bag.

The 7th was quite a nice day, spent in the Dal-bilar Dabri jungles. Two Bear were put up in the same beat. One was bagged at the time, but the other gave a lot of trouble, and we did not get him till after lunch. Towards the close of the beat in which the second Bear was bagged a Leopard jumped up from behind the howdahs. He also gave us a longish chase, but eventually we managed to pad him too.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Again on the 8th we failed to bring our Tiger to book. The *khubber* sounded all right, but we found that "Stripes" had contented himself with sucking the blood of the kill, a Buffalo, and then made off.

We had a fairly good general shoot on the 9th, bringing back a Bear, a Barasingh and a Hog Deer, and the next day a good Leopard (7'-7½") and two Bear were shot. On this occasion we had really been beating at Jeypore for a Tiger, which we did not see, when the Leopard jumped up and saved the situation. The Bear were killed near Banir Dabri.

The 11th being the festival of the "Eed," we did not start for Chapanee, from which place Tiger *khubber* had been brought us, till nearly 2 p.m. In the first beat a Bear, a very long one, was shot. He measured 7'-1" in length, body 6'-7" and girth 50". Later on in the day a splendid Tiger was bagged. Not so bulky per-



The 10'-2" Tiger.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR

haps as others that I have shot, but a fine beast all the same and in the prime of life. He made a great show as he galloped out. Measurements: length 10'-2", body 6'-11", and weight 476lbs.

On the 12th two Bear were killed at Malakata and four different *khubber* of Tiger--three from the east bank of the Raidak and one from Dhobicura--reached us on the 13th. I decided in favour of numbers and we started eastwards. The first beat was quite close to camp, but the patch was full of bad *fasan*, so, as the chances seemed against us, I left it and went to the next *khubber* at Barabhisa, five miles further on. I was sorry afterwards I had done so, for the beast there turned out to be a Leopard, and though he was a good one (7'-7"), I should much rather have taken the chance of a Tiger.

We tried the Dhobicura jungle on the 14th and got a Tigress, a Leopard and two Sambhur out



The 10'-4" Tiger padded.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

of it. The Tigress looked at first as if she meant mischief, but she thought better of it and was killed swimming the nullah, out of which we had to fish her. The Leopard—a small one—was killed after lunch and gave a lot of trouble.

The day after this a Leopard was killed at Chukchuka. We also had a beat for Bear, but didn't come across any. By this time a lot of sportsmen had left camp, including Forrest, Wood, White, the two Phipps and Lumsden.

The 16th was a great day, indeed a record one in these parts. Shooting the Reserves on the Jorai nullah, we killed five Tiger within twelve minutes. I suppose I was not in the vein for writing that day, for the only detail I find given in my diary is that "one of them very nearly got home on an Elephant."

We tried for Tiger again on the 17th. This time on the banks of the Sunkos, but though the

"CHEEK."

*khubber* was good and everything seemed favourable, we saw nothing of them. On my return home I was astounded to hear that three cows had been killed close to the very patch and



The five Tiger.

practically at the very time we were beating. Conceive the cheek of the Tigers !

A bit of luck in the shape of a Tiger came our way on the 10th. No *khubber* of any sort having

### SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

come in, we went out in the direction of Borshikata and beat a likely looking patch on the Raidak, purely on chance. The result was a Tiger, 9'-1" in length.

For some time we had been hearing of an Albino bull Buffalo that had been playing havoc with tame bull Buffaloes, so on the 19th we went to the Reserves after him towards Bachamari and Salmara. A Leopard was killed in the first beat, but the Albino wasn't in it, so after lunch we got on his tracks and followed him up into a bit of *null*, where he was killed. He was a fine beast, in dealer's condition, standing 16 hands  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " with horns 8'-7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

I shifted camp on the 20th and the day after went after Tiger. No sooner had we got to the ground than down came the rain and we couldn't commence beating till after lunch. As the villagers had set fire to the very patch into which

## TWO GAME BEASTS.

the kill had been dragged, it wasn't very surprising to find that the Tiger had quitted.

The 22nd and 23rd were spent in pursuit of the wily Leopard, and the first day we got a goodish one (7'-6") close to the Alipur road. The second day was rather mismanaged. *Khubber* came in of a Leopard about ten miles off, and while I was considering the advisability of going for him, news of another quite close to camp arrived. This we went out for, only to find the *khubber* was bad.

We padded a Tiger (9'-2") and a Leopard on the 24th, and both beasts gave us quite a merry time of it. The Tiger in particular looked like giving a lot of trouble and charged about a good deal, but I don't think he ever really meant business. The Leopard was first wounded and then we had to leave him to go after the Tiger. But we picked him up on our way home, though in the interim he had succeeded in mauling a villager,

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

who, in trying to locate him, suddenly came right on top of him.

Our bag on the 15th consisted only of one Barasingh. Every thing seemed to go wrong, for, with a little bit of luck, we might have got a Tiger and a Leopard. The 26th and 27th gave us a Leopard each day. On the latter date, by the way, a tremendous hailstorm broke while we were at lunch, some of the hailstones being as large as a small fowl's egg.

Dal Dalia was a long way off camp, nevertheless the 28th found us there, beating the jungle for a Tiger of which we had heard, and we were rewarded by padding him all right. He was a heavily built beast, 9'-5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " in length.

The next day three Leopard were killed. As we did not leave camp till 3 p.m., we were certainly lucky in getting them. Moreover, the tree jungle in which we found them was difficult, and



**A Tigress shot in the River Raidak.**

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

a very winding nullah that ran through it didn't make the beating any easier. Altogether, we had a lot of trouble getting the beasts to break.

The greater part of the 30th was occupied in a futile hunt after a Tiger near Jeypore. We saw his tracks and that was all. For the last day of the month we had a general shoot, in which five Barasingh and three Hog Deer were bagged. Out of the eight Deer, five were stags.

After our repulse at Jeypore on the 28th, we tied up for the Tiger, and on the 1st April *khubber* arrived of a kill. The information was right enough, but the Tiger was not. He must have been very near us, I think, though again he succeeded—remembering the date perhaps—in giving us the slip.

For three days no big game had been killed, and three Bear, killed on the 2nd April, broke the run of bad luck. The day following a Leopard

#### A TAME FINISH.

(7'-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") was also bagged. This beast was full of courage, charged about and managed to maul an Elephant.

The last day of the shoot, the 4th, we tried the forest for Tiger, but saw nothing better than their tracks. We had not done badly on the whole, though, owing to the country having been so much burned, the Tigers had mostly retired into the forest, out of which it was very hard to get them.



# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

## RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1903.

Animals.		Feb. 7th, 10th, and 11th.	Feb. 16th to April 4th	November.	December.	Total.
Tiger	...	...	12	1†	...	13
Leopard	...	5	22	...	1‡	28
Rhino	..	...	...	...	...	...
Buffalo	...	...	1*	...	...	1
Bison	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bear	...	...	15	...	...	15
Sambhur	...	...	...	...	...	...
Barasingh	...	...	20	...	...	20
Hog Deer	...	...	9	...	...	9
Antelope	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pig	...	...	16	...	...	16

*Party* :— Lumsden, Phipps, H. Phipps, Pape, James and self.

\* An Albino bull Buffalo.

† 9 ft. in length. *Party* :— Wimberley, James, Gojendro and self.

‡ *Party* :— B. Ghose, Sujey, Sujan and self.

## CHAPTER XXV.

1904.

*Jan., Feb. and March.*

An indifferent start—Two Tigress—We slay the Jeypore Tiger—  
A mixed Bag—Succession of Defeats—Shoot ends for a Time—A  
Fresh Start—Poor Sport—Big Game on the Bakla.

TOGETHER with Mr. and Mrs. Bankier, Hammond, French, Beecher, James, Mr. and the Misses Miller and Sujey, I started for a shoot on the 17th January. On arrival in camp we got two *khubbers* of Tiger. On going for them the next morning, the first kill proved to be a Leopard's. It was eaten up by vultures, and so was not worth trying for. The other kill was a Tiger's, but we did not find him at home, and, judging from his tracks, he had evidently cleared off early in the morning.

For the two next days we had no better success. On the 19th we had two separate *khubbers* of

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Leopard and got neither, though I was told that, after we had left the place, a Leopard walked out quite close to where we had been beating. Except



Starting on our first Shoot.

that we were after Bear instead of Leopards, the 20th told much the same tale and beyond a Sambhur nothing was bagged.

At last on the 21st a Leopard was padded, though here again luck was none of the best, as

## A BEGINNING WITH TIGER.

only the light failing prevented us getting another. The 22nd was another tantalizing day. In the Reserves close to camp we saw plenty of fresh Tiger tracks, and at one time we had a Rhino in the line, but we saw neither him nor any Tigers.

We got a Tigress on the 23rd—the first this year—she showed no fight, though at one time she looked as if she was going to. A fair beast, 8'-8" in length. After lunch a Tiger was put up in the first beat and slipped off through the line somehow. A second beat turned him out again, and this time he was fired at but without result. The 24th was a very dull day, passed in trying unsuccessfully to get a Bear, and on the 25th we killed another Tigress (8'-4"). She had two cubs with her, but they got away and it was just as well they did.

We had a general shoot on the 26th, but got nothing except a few birds out of it. Indeed, for the next four days the shooting was singularly

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

devoid of incident. I moved camp to Cheephla on the 27th, and from that date until the 31st we saw no four-footed game whatever, though some *khubber* was brought in.

On the last day of January, however, we slew the Jeypore Tiger that had defeated us time after time for years. He had no opportunity of showing his metal, as a single bullet did the trick. He proved to be a very good beast, 9'-6" in length, body 6'-5" and weight 445lbs.

A Sambhur and a Pig were bagged in a general shoot near the old "Gurh" on the 1st February, and on the 2nd no big game again was seen until we were on our way home. Then some big beast—no one knew quite what—was put up, but though we had a beat for him, it was by that time too dark to do any good.

On the 3rd *khubber* was brought of the Bara Dogla Tiger having killed, and I really thought we were

### TOO WARY.

going to have a chance of getting on terms with him. We had a long day trying to get him, but he was too wary and didn't put in an appearance.

We got a bag on the 4th, consisting of a Leopard, a Sambhur, a Barasingh and a Pig. The Leopard was a fair one and looked to me about 7', but I didn't measure him. The 5th was taken up in moving camp to Alipur Duars, and for the two days following our arrival there we did no shooting



The Jeypore Tiger padded.

Two Leopard were killed on the 8th, one in a patch close to the village and the other in a large

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

piece of jungle some way off. The second was a fairly big one (7'-2") and gave us a lot of trouble in getting him to break. He was bagged just before lunch.

We had a long day after Tiger on the 9th, and eventually found that the jungle, which the beast was said especially to favour, was occupied by a pack of wild dogs. So we had our day for nothing. The 10th was a day off, and we were again defeated by the Tiger on the 11th. In this case the kill was near the forest and he evidently heard us and sneaked off.

A Leopard on the 12th, a rest for the Elephant on the 13th, and then a third defeat on the 14th by the same Tiger, though the beast had killed two days running ; it was the old story—slipped away. We had no better luck in the afternoon. A Leopard we were after was put up and fired at several times, but went off apparently unscathed.

### A FRESH START.

Up to the last I had hopes of getting him, but want of light beat us.

Just before leaving for Cooch Behar on the 15th, we got a Leopard and so ended the shoot.

A month later Hammond, Voretzsch, Jyotsna, Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, Miss Porter, P. Sen, Ghose, Sujey, James and myself were again out in camp. We commenced on March 15th with an unsuccessful hunt after a Leopard, but the next day a fine big one (7'-8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " ) was bagged. After padding him we beat for Bear. The jungle, however, was against us and we didn't put any up.

Before making a start in the morning of the 17th, three separate *khubbers*—two of Leopard and one of Bear—had come in. And yet, in spite of it all, we had no show, though I believe some big beast was in the last beat. A little better luck gave us two Bear and a couple of Pig on



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

the 18th. We had a tremendous lot of trouble getting the Bear out; in fact had not the beaters done their work right well we should not have got them at all.

On the 19th we had general shooting in some patches near the Forest Reserves and only bagged two Hog Deer. There were fresh tracks of Rhino and Bison about, but no signs of "Stripes". After another blank day, I moved camp on the 21st to Salsarabari and gave the Elephants a rest the day following.

The 23rd brought with it quite a pleasant change, for on that day, at last, we got the better of a Tiger, or rather Tigress, as she turned out to be. It was on the banks of the Bakla River, and we put her up in the first beat after lunch. She showed a certain amount of sport, scratching one of the beating Elephants slightly. On the way back to camp a King Cobra, measuring 10'-3", was killed.



Placing Stops.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The 24th gave us nothing in the shape of big game. We had a long day beating for Leopards, but didn't see any. However, we killed one the next day, this time again on the Bakla. He wasn't a bad beast as regards size (7'-5"), but a coward at heart. The kill—a cow—had been dragged over 300 yards, and we all supposed from the *khubber* that it must have been a Tiger. The place was 8 miles away from camp, and had I known it was only a Leopard, I shouldn't have gone such a distance.

No *khubber* whatever came in on the 26th and 27th. Tiger had evidently left the locality. So after bagging a Sambhur, a Barasingh and three Hog Deer on the 28th I stopped shooting for the time being.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1904.

*January, February and March.*

Animals.	Jan. 13th.	Jan. 26th to Feb. 15th.	Mar. 15th-28th.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	...	3	1	4
Leopard ... ..	† 1	6	2	9
Rhino ... ..	...	...	...	...
Buffalo ... ..	...	...	...	...
Bison ... ..	...	...	...	...
Bear ... ..	...	...	2	2
Sambhur ... ..	...	3	1	4
Barasingh ... ..	...	2	1	3
Hog Deer ... ..	...	...	5	5
Antelope... ..	...	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	...	11	3	14

† Party :—Hammond, Sujei, Ghose and self.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

1904—*contd.*

### *April and December.*

The Viceroy's Shoot—Lord Curzon kills with one Shot—Another good Tiger—The Dinah River and Tondur Reserves provide Sport—A Cold Weather Shoot—"Kennedy" mauled—In and out luck—The Summary.

ON the 4th April, just a week after the last shoot terminated, I joined and had the honour of organising with Mr. Marindin H. E. Lord Curzon's shoot at Madari Hat. The others of the party were Baring, Bird, Adam Keighley, Farrington and Armstrong.

The first day was not particularly propitious. Near Chilapata in the Reserves, several Rhino were put up, and these, in spite of great efforts on the part of the beaters, broke back. Neither Bison nor Buffalo were seen in the beat, only a Sambhur Stag and a Hog Deer were bagged, the former by the Viceroy.

Still keeping to the same place, a good Tiger (9'-7") was killed on the 5th, and we did not take

## UP AND THROUGH.

long over the business. We left camp a little before 11 o'clock, and by 12-30 the beast was padded.

On the 6th we moved the camp on to Ramshahaihat, and *en route* we beat the Tondur Reserves. A Tiger got up in the first beat, and also, I am



Our Camp at Ramshahaihat, April 1904.

sorry to say, through it. But forest shooting is always chancy work, and this sort of result must be expected sometimes. I need hardly add that we never saw the Tiger again.

We had a good day in the Tondur Reserves again on the 7th. There was only one beat, but

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Lord Curzon's first Tiger.

### THE VICEROY'S TIGERS.

in it were two Tiger and a black Leopard. One Tiger got away, and the other—a very long one—was killed by the Viceroy with a single shot. The Leopard, only the second black one that I have come across, was also bagged. The Tiger measured 10'-2" in length, body 6'-10", and girth 48". Unfortunately we had no scales out with us, so could not weigh him.

At Khateemaree the following day the Viceroy killed another good Tiger—9'-4" in length and body 6'-6"—and we finished up on the 9th in style, bagging two Tigress and a Bear. This last day of the shoot we were out first in the jungles on the banks of the Dinah River, and from there went on to the Tondur Reserves. The Tigers were shot in separate beats and in different places. One of them and also the Bear were got in the same patch that produced the 10'-2" Tiger three days before.

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We had one more shooting expedition to finish up the year. My party were :—Mr. and Mrs.



SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Lord Curzon's third Tiger.

### PROFITLESS PURSUIT.

Edwards, Miss Porter, Miss Bainbridge, P. Sen, Jit, James, Ghose and Juggins. We began at Chukchuka on the 7th December, and spent the



Padding the third Tiger.

first two days in profitless pursuit of Leopard, none of which were seen. The 19th, however, gave us quite good sport, and a Tiger and two Bear

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

were the result. The first beat was on the Jorai River, east of camp, and in it the Tiger—which by the way was supposed to be a Leopard—got through the guns. The second beat put him up again, and this time he was full of fight and succeeded in mauling “Kennedy”. Then he disappeared, and it took a third beat, in which he mauled another Elephant, to make him break cover. Jit and James eventually finished him. Both Bear were bagged after lunch, and they too provided some fun. The larger one took to the open, and we had a long chase before he was brought to book. As we were moving homewards “Kamikhya Pershad” went for my Elephant—a female—and nearly knocked me, or rather my mount, over. As this was a very unusual, not to say unwarranted, proceeding, I had him well hammered afterwards by “Debraj.”

At Balashi, just above Bhalka, we put up two Rhino in the first beat on the 20th. Both got

### LEOPARD CHARGES HOME.

clear away, though one of the stops had five shots. The jungle was very heavy, but it was a disappointing day all the same.

I had intended giving the Elephants a rest on the 21st, but as *khubber* of a Leopard came from a village north-east of our camp, we went out in the afternoon and got him. He gave us plenty of sport, and finally, when cornered, charged home on Jit's Elephant, "Nur Jehan".

We made it up to the Elephants by giving them a rest the next day, going out ourselves for a general shoot. We got nothing out of it, however, but a Hare and a Partridge. On the 23rd we tried the banks of the Jorai for Tiger and put one up in the third beat. This we did not get, as he slipped through, the jungle being really too heavy to beat properly. In the last beat of all we bagged a Bear.

A Leopard and a Pig were killed on the Garad Haut *maidan* on the 24th. The Boar was the

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

largest I had seen for some time. He stood 36" at the shoulder and was a particularly heavy beast, weighing 350lbs.

Fairly good *khubber* of Leopard reached us on the 25th, and as we failed to find him at home, we went on to my Reserves where we put another up. He lay very low and absolutely declined to be driven out, though the jungle in which he was, was beaten three times. Finding fresh tracks of a big Tiger, I decided to go for him, which we did, again without result at Sunkos Balashees. The next day we had precisely the same disappointing experience. Fresh tracks of Tiger and Leopard, much beating and no beast.

Our last shot was fired on the 27th, when a good Leopard (7'-6½") was killed on the banks of the Jorai. The man who brought in the *khubber* told us that a Tiger or a Leopard had carried off a calf from the village. The kill, however,



In the Forest Reserves, 1904.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

could not be located, as the marauder had simply picked up the calf in his mouth and disappeared. As it was necessary to find out where the beast had gone, if we were to have a reasonable chance of getting him, I sent out some of the *shikaris* to prospect. They returned in due course with the good news that they had actually seen the Tiger and off we went. Several patches had been beaten and nothing turned out, when Hatashu saw what he thought was a Tiger— it turned out to be a Leopard—jump into the water and deliberately come inside the beat. We did not get him to break the first time of asking, but the second time he did. One more beat on the chance of a Tiger finished the day and the shoot.

I made the following note at the time :—“There are several Tiger about, but the jungles are very heavy and the beasts rarely kill. With fair luck we might have bagged three or four more than

## THE BAG.

we did. Six weeks hence this place will be worth camping at."

### RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1904—*continued.*

Animals.	April 4th-9th.	May 20th.	Dec. 17th-27th.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	5	...	1	6
Leopard ... ..	* 1	† 1	3	5
Rhino ... ..	...	...	...	...
Buffalo ... ..	...	...	...	...
Bison ... ..	...	...	...	...
Bear ... ..	1	...	3	4
Sambhur ... ..	1	...	...	2
Barasingh ... ..	...	...	...	...
Hog Deer ... ..	1	...	...	1
Antelope... ..	...	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	3	...	1	4

\* Black Leopard.

† Gojendro, Ghose, Sujey and I formed the party.



## CHAPTER XXVII.

1905.

Camp at Kalabari—Lord Curzon arrives in Camp—Burnt Tiger—  
A fine lengthy Beast—Results of the Shoot—Another Expedition—  
A Big Python—Three Bear in successive shots.

**T**HIS year I had again the honour of running a shoot for H. E. Lord Curzon with Mr. Perrée, the Forest Officer, at Kalabari, Assam. We commenced shooting on the 18th February, the party at first consisting of H. E. Lord Lamington, Baring, Meynell, Akers-Douglas, Perrée, Ezechiel, Peter and myself. The next day the Viceroy with Hammond, Macnab and Howell joined us. The first day, luck failed us altogether, though the *khubber* was good enough, as the Tigress we were after never appeared in spite of four very careful beats. But on the 19th, a good Tiger was bagged, 9'-10" in length and scaling 532 lbs. Baring got

### A TEN-FOOT TIGER.

a shot at a Tigress, but lost her for the time being, though she was found and brought in the next day, badly burnt, curiously enough, on one side only.

On the 20th we were lucky enough to put up five Tiger, including two cubs, and we bagged two, the other three getting away. The day following we tried a beat on the Hali River and a Tiger turned up all right and gave us a shot, but broke back through the line of beaters. We might still have had a chance of getting him, if a mahout had not set fire to the jungle, which forced us to clear out.

At Kachugaon, about five miles from the Forest Officer's bungalow, we got a fine lengthy Tiger on the 22nd—10'-1"—and weighing over 500 lbs. There was a Tigress about as well, and we actually saw her, but could do no good owing to the *fasan*. A Tiger and Tigress fell to us on the 23rd, the former before lunch and the latter

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



The Viceroy's Shoot, 1905.

### LORD LAMINGTON'S BISON.

after. We had some trouble with the Tigress as she broke through the line the first beat, but a gun in the line got her in the second. Lord Lamington and Perrée were out tracking on this occasion and bagged a bull Bison besides having shots at a Rhino.

The 24th gave us another good Tiger which we found in a patch of jungle about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of camp. After lunch a Bear was put up and wounded but he managed to outflank the line and clear out. In the Pechadabri Block, we put up a bull Bison and a bull Buff in the first beat we had on the 25th; the Bison was fired at, but the Buff didn't give a shot and both broke back through the line, beating us completely. A great pity getting neither. In the afternoon, the Viceroy, Baring and Macnab left, Hammond having gone off the previous day.

On the 26th a Tiger and a Tigress were padded. They both showed a certain amount of

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

sport and brought our total of Tiger up to ten, not so bad, I think, for nine days' shooting.

The very beginning of April found our camp pitched at Patlakhowa, the occupants being Count Quadt, F. Grenfell, R. Grenfell, Rajey, Jit, Ghose, Sujey, Juggins and myself. We got nothing the first day unless one counts a big Python, 15'-10" long, that was killed by a mahout. The next day, things looked up a bit; one of the tigers was killed north-east of the camp and though the first beat proved unproductive, on putting the second into a likely looking place, we turned out a Tigress and two nearly full grown cubs. They were all three wounded, yet all managed to break through the flank guns into the Reserves. Taking the line on, we picked up the Tigress dead and also came across one of the cubs, which we killed. The show was quite amusing while it lasted.

On the 4th a Tigress was bagged and that, with the exception of one Bear, was the last big game

### SMALL BUT FIERCE.

that we were to get for some days. During this dull time, the Maharani and Peter Sen joined us, the latter only for a couple of days, and later on Corbett and Hammond arrived in camp.

Just a week after the last Tigress, we killed another in the Reserves, a small one but full of courage that gave plenty of fun and finished up by charging home on a "pad". The 12th was a very disappointing day. Certainly one if not two Rhino, a Tiger and two Bear were seen, but none of the beasts came out to the stops. On our way home we came across another Rhino at the edge of the jungle, but our luck was dead out and we made nothing of the chance.

We tried the Reserves yet again on the 13th and had a much better day's sport. We commenced with a three-quarters grown cub that had the impertinence to charge out at me, but I stopped him all right. In the same beat we got shots at a Rhino and another Tiger, or rather

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Tigress as she proved to be after we had bagged her, and a third Tiger got through the beaters. After lunch we took up the tracks of the Rhino, but had to give up this game on account of the darkness. The next morning we had another try for the same beast but never saw him. Quadt and Hammond left us about this time.

The 15th was quite a nice day. A couple of Leopard were killed and one of them gave quite a lot of trouble before we had done with him. Both the Leopard were shot in the Reserves. A rest-day for the Elephants followed and then came a long and disappointing day after Rhino. I had great hopes of getting one, but we finished up absolutely blank.

We did manage to get one on the 18th. In the first beat four or five Rhino were put up, but all these succeeded in breaking back through the line. I then collected all the howdahs and put them into the line and this time we knocked over

### THREE SHOTS, THREE BEAR.

a fine cow which stood 17 hands at the shoulder. She had a three-quarters grown calf with her, but this we let off. The day after this we had another try after Rhino, but had to stop early as the Grenfells had to catch the mail from Cooch Behar. On our way home three Bear were killed. They were all bagged by the same man in three successive shots and only one required finishing. Besides the Grenfells, Corbett also left camp.

The 21st was a long, tiresome day fooling about after a beastly Leopard which we never saw. A fine Boar was bagged, 33 inches at the shoulder and weighing 346 lbs. Rajey and Jit left on the 22nd, when a Barasingh was shot, which weighed 557 lbs.

The 23rd was the last day of the shoot. In the morning we had a good bit of trouble with a Leopard that wouldn't face the open, but we got him eventually. The actual finish came in the



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

shape of a fine Sambhur Stag and the same evening we got back to Cooch Behar.

Captain and Mrs. Derek Keppel, Courage, Ashburner, Victor and Sujey had a small shoot in December, the principal results being 4 Leopard, 3 Bear and a Buffalo.

**RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1905.**

Animals.	February.	April.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	10	6	16
Leopard ... ..	...	3	3
Rhino ... ..	...	1	1
Buffalo ... ..	...	...	...
Bison ... ..	1	...	1
Bear ... ..	...	4	4
Sambhur... ..	...	1	1
Barasingh ... ..	...	1	1
Pig ... ..	...	1	1

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

1906.

Assam—A Troublesome Tiger—"Quits" with an old Friend—Blank days—Things look up—A good fighting Tiger—Poor finish to an indifferent Shoot.

**T**HIS year I took my party to Assam for the shoot, and on March 22nd we found our camp pitched on the Becki, two miles west of Helapakri. Excluding myself there were Major and Lady Violet Crawley, Rajey, James, Victor and Sujey. The Maharajah of Bikaner, Mr. and Mrs. Edwards and Miss Porter joined us a day or two later. We commenced well on the first day by bagging a Tigress at Roha in the first beat with one shot.

We got nothing else that day or the next, when we found that our ground had already been beaten over, but at Koorebasha on the 24th another Tigress was padded. She gave us 'ot

## KILLED AT LAST.

of trouble one way and another. She was put up in the first beat and fired at but broke back ; the next time I fancy the line must have walked over her, but the third time she broke out to the right hand stops and again got away into another



Going up to Barapeta on the Mundia River.

patch. Two more beats through the same ground failed to turn her out, so we consoled ourselves with lunch. Then the *shikaris* persuaded me to have another try at the same patch and this time he was put out and killed. She made an

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

effort to charge at the end, but she was too far gone to do much. I can't for the life of me understand why she did not turn nasty before. However, it was a bit of luck getting her at all as we had no *khubber*. We heard of another Tiger in a big patch close by, but there wasn't time to beat for him.

On the 25th we had a try for Tiger north-east of the camp, and we actually saw tracks of two pairs, but we didn't come across them. The day after this we had a beat in the opposite direction, and after three hard beats managed to bag a Tigress. As things were not particularly lively, I changed camp to Bogidara. The 28th proved a blank, though the *khubber* was sound enough. The Tiger, as it turned out, had been disturbed by the villagers, which, of course, accounted for our not coming to terms with him. It was baddish luck, as we might have had a try for another of which we had heard nearer home.

## LYING UP.

We gave the Elephants a rest on the 29th, and the following day went to Kamergaon after Buffs. At the meet I was told that a Tiger had killed a cow close to where the Elephants were waiting



Mounting Howdahs after Lunch.

for us. We found the cow all right, but no Tiger, so we beat the most likely looking place near to her. As I was placing the stops, I came across a bit of boggy ground which I did not like to leave,

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

so I put the howdahs through it, and sure enough in it was the Tigress. She was killed at once, nine shots being fired at her, so the poor beast had no chance of getting away.

After padding her we had a try for the Buffs we had originally come out for, but beyond a three-quarters grown bull we saw nothing. On the last day of the month we came across an old friend in the shape of a bull Buffalo that had bested us in 1902. He was bagged on the way home, so that we can cry "quits" after four years. A fine massive beast, over 16 hands high.

The next eight days' record is blank, unfortunately, so far as big game is concerned. Most of our energy was fruitlessly expended in hunting Buffs, and though we put them up at times, nothing resulted. A Bear was fired at, but he too got away undamaged so far as I could tell. Rajey left us on the 3rd April. Bikaner shot a Crocodile on the 4th, and then more disappoint-

### A CHANGE OF LUCK.

ing days, so I changed camp to Helapakri in hopes of breaking this spell of bad luck, and on the 9th we padded a Tiger.

We got him at Roha and he showed a certain amount of sport. In the first beat he got through the stops, and we eventually bagged him just before lunch. He wouldn't face the open at any time, but charged the line of beaters several times. However, he never got home.

A real change of luck at last! On the 10th we beat for Tiger at Enagacha and put one up in the first beat. He came out well to the guns, but stopped on being fired at, and laid up in a small patch of burnt-up grass. On the line advancing he charged out and got home on a howdah, clawing the Elephant slightly on the trunk, and then we finished him. On the way home we had a try for Bear, but didn't see any. Altogether a great improvement in the way of sport.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

We got the *khubber* from Moirajhar on the 11th, but as it seemed a bit doubtful, and, moreover, I did not know the ground at all, I went out with the *shikaris* to reconnoitre. Skirting a bit of *null* was a low grass jungle and out of this jumped a Tigress. She came straight out to the end guns, who had her all to themselves and promptly finished her. While we were having lunch another *khubber* of a Tiger having killed a bullock close to the *Dandi* made by our Elephants was brought in. We must have passed close to him on our way out. The kill had been dragged into a small patch, and after a little hesitation, out he came with a roar and was despatched without trouble. He was a fine Tiger 9'-11" over all and weighed 444 lbs.

The Crawleys left on the 12th, and we devoted the day to a rest for man and beast. The 13th, we went out, although the *khubber* was not good, mainly because it was the Edwards' last day.

## TWO GOOD TIGER.

However, as luck would have it, we saw nothing. The next day, two good Tiger were padded, a result not to be sneezed at in those hard days.



Major Crawley's 9'-11" Tiger.

Neither showed sport, but as the kills were very far apart it took us all our time getting them. We did not reach camp till after 9 o'clock at night.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

This was our last stroke of luck for some time. I see by my diary that during the next nine days, in spite of a change of camp to Mundia, the total bag was one Sambhur. We tried after Tiger, Buffalo and Bear fairly persistently day by day, but got nothing. Our luck was clean out and once or twice we deserved it. The Maharajah of Bikaner left camp on the 19th.

At last on the 24th we got a Tiger at Mundia. It wasn't till the third beat that he was bagged. For a long time he absolutely declined to face the guns and broke back through the line of beaters. Eventually I went with the line of beaters and killed him as he charged. He was a heavy-built Tiger, but I had no scales to weigh him with. On the 25th we returned to Helapakri and took an "easy" for the two following days.

The 28th brought us another good Tiger at Kamargaon. We had a long way to go, but it proved well worth it. The Tiger was full of



Group of Howdah Elephants, November 1906.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

beans and meant charging. He broke back twice through the line of beaters and was ultimately killed in the line itself but not before he



Padding one of the Tigers, 1906 shoot.

had scratched one Elephant and had had a good turn up with another. This latter happened to be a howdah Elephant and while the fight was going on I thought at one time that the man would be



Luncheon Group, November 1906.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

shot clean out of the howdah. I must say I like a good Tiger like this one was.

The 29th was a blank and so was the 30th, though on this latter date we really thought we were in for a good thing. A wayfarer reported that he had come across five Tigers on the Barapeta Road. We found the tracks, which were perfectly fresh, and a little further on was a dead Buffalo evidently killed by a Tiger or Tigers. In spite of all this we saw nothing more and had to return home disappointed, a bad ending to an indifferent shoot.

In November of the same year, Sir Andrew and Lady Fraser, Captain and Mrs. Maidlow, Irwin, Todd, Bryan Evans, Ghose and Sujey came out with me to Chalapeta for a five days' shoot. The record is a very poor one. No Tiger, Bison, Rhino or Buffalo, and only one Leopard, a Sambhur and a couple of Bear were

### UNSPORTSMANLIKE.

brought to book. From what the *shikaris* told me the jungles had been disturbed by some persons who should have known better. It was, to say the least, a most unsportsmanlike proceeding.



# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

## RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1906.

Animals.	March and April.	November.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	12	...	12
Leopard ... ..	...	1	1
Rhino ... ..	..	...	...
Buffalo ... ..	1	...	1
Bison ... ..	...	...	...
Bear ... ..	...	2	2
Sambhur .. ...	...	...	...
Barasingh ... ..	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	...	2	2





Family group. 1907.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

1907.

T. E. the Earl and Countess of Minto—A Glorious Beginning—  
The Viceroy's Tigress—Wandering Minstrels—Another Shoot—  
"Ratan Pershad" bogged—A curiously mixed Bag—Goodish Sport—  
A first class Day—Boar chases a Leopard.

**I**N February of 1907, H. E. the Earl of Minto honoured me by asking me to run his shoot which commenced on the 18th. Our camp was pitched on the same spot where Lord Curzon's camp stood in 1905.

Before Their Excellencies arrived, a small party went out to a place about 17 miles from camp near the railway station at Fakirgaon for Tiger. A couple were turned but only one was bagged.

The big shoot commenced on the 18th at the Saralbhangra River. Our party consisted of Their Excellencies the Earl and Countess of Minto, Lady Eileen Elliot, Adam, Dunlop-Smith,

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Viceroy's Shoot Assam, 1907.



One of the Viceroy's Tigers.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Crooke-Lawless, Bulkeley, Mackenzie, Graham, Rajey, Hammond, Lyall, Perrée, Sujey and myself.

The first day was a glorious one. Before lunch we had three Tigers padded and bagged



The meet on the second day.

another four in the afternoon, making in all seven Tigers, which is a record for one day's shoot. None of them showed any real fighting though some pretended to now and then. Lady Minto knocked over the big Tigress galloping away at over sixty yards—no mean performance

### LORD MINTO'S TIGRESS.

for anybody. Two were fair sized beasts ; the other five being half or three-quarters grown cubs. The next day was a blank, and on the 20th a general shoot produced a Bear and a couple of Barasingh Stags, so that we were fairly lucky.

We tried the Hali River for Tiger on the 21st, and after beating a very heavy patch of *null* turned out a short thickset Tiger, which was soon finished off. After lunch we had general shooting but did not do much good.

The 22nd gave us a better day. Two *khubber* of Tiger had come in. The first from Garobusti was good enough and there we went to find "Stripes" at home all right. He walked out quite quietly and was killed at once. The second *khubber* was very indefinite, but from what the *shikaris* said I thought we had a fair chance of meeting with the beast and I was not far wrong. The Tigress came out to His Excellency, who disposed of her with a single shot.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The following day was disappointing. A Bear turned up in the first beat but broke through the line of Elephants. In the afternoon it rained pretty hard, which made things uncomfortable.



Adam's Tiger, being dragged out of the Nullah.

However, we had a couple of beats in the rain, but got nothing. The 24th was our last day and fortunately it did not prove a blank. Two Bears were turned out in the first beat and both were accounted for.



Howdah Elephants with Their Excellencies.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

We returned to camp for lunch and started for the railway station at Fakirgaon shortly after. Sujey told me that just after we had left, the big Tiger, which I was very keen the Viceroy should bag, killed a Buffalo close to camp, also that two other Tiger were wandering about close to camp making that peculiar noise—*a twit*. It was a great pity that His Excellency could not stay a couple of days more.

Our camp being at Chota Bhalka we commenced operations on the 13th of March at Chuckchuka. On this occasion C. W. Graham, J. Daniell, R. L. Morgan, Walker, Rajey, Hitty, Ghose, Sujey and I made up the party; a day or two later the Maharani with N. Sen and the Wolfe-Murrays joined us. We drew blood at the first asking and bagged a Tiger. He made a bit of a charge but thought better of it. At one time he looked like giving trouble as he galloped into a bad boggy nullah, but we found him dead there.

### A TIGRESS GETS OFF.

The next day at Giriakheta we lost a Tigress that had killed a tie-up. She was in a small patch of grass on the banks of the Jorai and close to the forest. As soon as the line was put in she



Measuring the first Tiger, March 1907.

made a bee-line for the Reserves, getting away apparently untouched. After lunch we came back and found another *khubber* waiting for us, and as it sounded quite good, out we went. The

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Tiger gave us a lot of trouble before we padded him. He was a short heavy animal but a fine beast and weighed 469 lbs.

On the 15th we tried for Bears and in the first beat two out of the three got clean away; the third we killed in the second beat. One of the Elephants "Ratan Pershad" got into a bad quicksand and we had an awful job to get him out.

The 16th gave us a capital day's sport on the Jorai. The first beat was unproductive, but in the second we came on two Tiger but we couldn't get them to break. Eventually we cornered them. The Tigress made many attempts to get back, but did not succeed. She was a really nice beast. The cub was rather small, but quite big enough to shoot. The Tigers were bagged before lunch and four Boars were knocked over during the day, one of which weighed 279 lbs.

We went to a place south of Garad Haut on the 17th where we had news of a kill, and on getting

#### KHUBBER BUT NO RESULT.

there found vultures on it. We beat several patches, and as Hatashu was placing the guns for the last beat before lunch, he espied the Tiger or Leopard (he declared it was the former) clearing away. The beast got into a heavy patch, and it wasn't worth while going after him. It rained the whole day and most of us got soaking wet. Morgan left on this date.

As it was raining on the 18th, I sent the Elephants out for fodder. At one o'clock two *khubber* were brought in, one of which was that a Tiger had tried to bone a Buffalo but had been driven off by the other Buffs. As the Elephants did not get back till late and we were not able to make a start before 4-30 p.m., I decided to go after the "sketchy" *khubber*. However, by the time we got out, the Tiger had left the patch and was met—so we heard—by some woodcutters as he was making off for the forest.

Shooting south-east of camp and later on at Chuckchucka, we had an excellent day's sport

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

on the 19th, bagging two Leopard and two Bear. The Leopard were got first in different beats and then we went for the Bear. The male Bear tried to get through the line but he was knocked over by one of the guns. We heard of



The meet, March 1907.

another Leopard having killed a pony, but hadn't time to get to the place.

The 20th was passed in the Haribhanga direction trying for Tiger, but though we had a long tiring day we never came across him.

## A MIXED BAG.

There was hardly any real jungle to beat and what there was, consisted of thin strips along the edges of nullahs. We killed a Bear and thus saved a blank. We also found a dead bullock which was said to have been killed the day before. Vultures were on the kill and we beat an adjacent patch on the off-chance of picking up a Tiger, but nothing turned up.

In spite of rain, which went on the whole day, on the 21st at Chuckchuka we got a Leopard and a Bear with her cub, so we did not do badly. The Elephants were given rest on the 22nd. A curiously mixed bag resulted from the 23rd,—a Leopard, a Bear, a Barasingh, a Boar and a Python. They were all bagged at Khagrabari, the Leopard in the first beat and the other beasts after lunch.

We had a long day after a Bear in the Reserves on the 24th, and got round him eventually. The 25th gave us a Tigress at Bhandani. She gave a



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

lot of trouble and it took close on two hours to pad her. She never charged home, but laid up in a bad piece of *fasan* through which the beat had to be taken very slowly. No *khubber* of any sort came in on the 26th, but we went out on the off-chance



Crossing the Sunkos, March 1907.

of picking a Leopard. This we failed to do and only a Barasingh was knocked over.

The next day, however, we got a Leopard in the Reserves—in fact in the old Rhino grounds. He was an old brute and almost white. We also

## JUST IN TIME.

shot a half-wild bull Buff. The villagers wanted him killed as he had become dangerous. We were done on the 28th by a Tiger or Tigress—whichever it happened to be—as the beast broke back into the Forest Reserves and I fancied at the time it was the same one that got through the guns before. But the 29th showed me that I was mistaken. On this date we were more fortunate and got our Tiger all right. We found, however, that the beast that got away the day before was not the Tigress that was fired at on the 14th. The Tiger we bagged must have got back yesterday before we had time to surround him. On this occasion we just caught him in time. He was not in the patch where the two tie-ups were killed. The fact is the jungles close to the Forest Reserves are burnt and there are no heavy patches close to the Reserves where a Tiger would care to lie up for many days. We also killed a Leopard at Daldalia, quite a good beast. Altogether the sport was not half so bad.

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



The Bag, March Camp, 1907.

### EXCELLENT SPORT.

The 30th was a long disappointing day wasted over a fruitless hunt after Bears and Leopards. We drew blank every beat, except for Pig. And as we might have gone after Buffs, I was precious sorry I hadn't, by the time the end of the day had come.

The last day of the month gave us excellent sport,—a Leopard and four Buffalo. The patch we intended to beat for Buffs was on fire and for some time we were at a loss how to place the herd, the jungle being burnt all round. Eventually I took up a nullah which joined on to the patch they were in and there we put up the whole herd—fourteen in all, two bulls and twelve cows—out of which we got four, three with good heads and one with an especially good one. The Leopard we picked up after luncheon. He was light for his size, but he had evidently not had a good meal for some days. I also saw fresh tracks of a Bear, but we didn't come across him.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The first of April was the last day of our shoot and unluckily it turned out a blank. The *khub-ber* was good enough in a way, but the jungle was full of *fasan* and therefore unbeatable. I think the Tigress we were after must have slunk into one of the patches, which were unbeatable because of bad *fasan*, before we got there.

# **RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1907.**

Animals.	February and March.	Total.
<b>Tiger</b> ... ..	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Leopard</b> ... ..	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Rhino</b> ... ..	.....	.....
<b>Buffalo</b> ... ..	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Bison</b> ... ..	.....	.....
<b>Bear</b> ... ..	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sambhur</b> ... ..	.....	.....
<b>Barasingh</b> ... ..	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Pig</b> ... ..	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

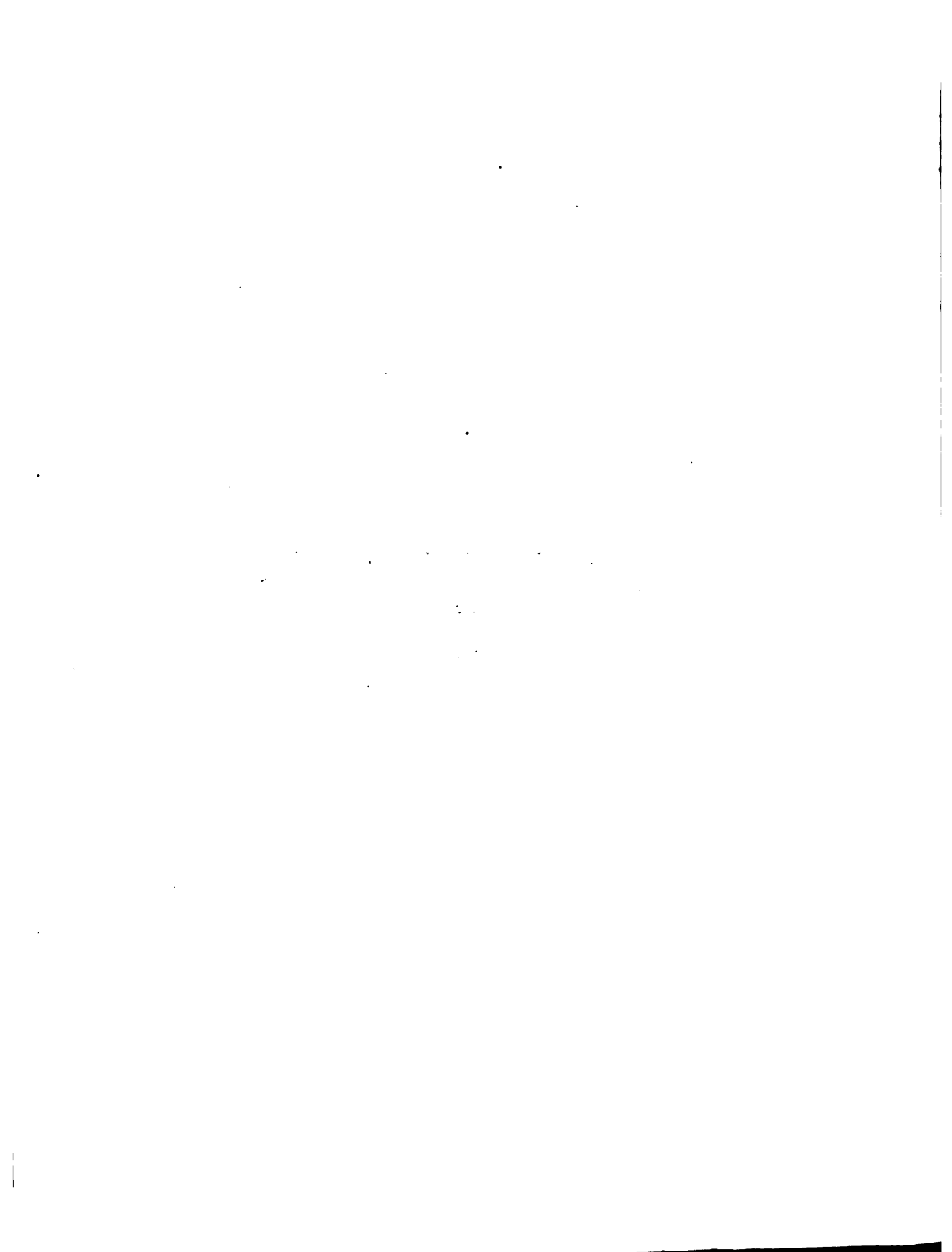


SOME WELL KNOWN ELEPHANTS

AT

COOCH BEHAR.







"Jung Pershad." The famous Nepalese fighting Elephant (now dead). Height, over 10 feet.





**Bijli Pershad." Nepalese fighting Elephant. Height, over 10 feet**





**"Indrajit" (late "Mowla Bux").** Height 9 ft. 5 in. Cooch Behar Pithana.  
This elephant is mentioned in Mr. Sanderson's book. He belonged to Amir Yakubkhan of Afghanistan.





"The Gonesh." Height 9 ft. 4 in. Cooch Behar Palkhana,







**"Meghnath." Height 9 ft. 9 in. Cooch Behar Pilibana.**





**A Nepalese Fighting Elephant.**





"Debraj." Height 10 ft. 4 in. Cooch Behar Pilkhana.





One of Indore Durbar Elephants.







One of Indore Durbar Elephants.



TOTAL BIG GAME SHOT  
DURING THE THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS  
1871 -1907.

Tiger ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	365
Leopard	...	...	...	...	...	...	311
Rhino ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	207
Bison ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Buffalo	...	...	...	...	...	...	438
Bear ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	133
Sambhur	...	...	...	...	...	...	259
Barasingh	...	...	...	...	...	...	318

# RECORDS OF BIG TIGERS SHOT.

District where shot.	Year.	Total Length.		Length of Body.	Girth behind shoulders.	Biceps.	Forearm.	Round Head.	Height.	Weight.	Length of Skull.	Remarks.
		Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	lbs.	In.	
Assam ...	1902	10	5	6	11	51	18½	36	41	504	15½	Longest tiger, tail included, I have seen or shot.
Assam...	1894	10	3	7	1½	52	19½	36½	40½	487	15½	Tiger empty.
Cooch Behar ...	1890	10	2½	7	0	48½	20	38½	39½	500	..	Fully gorged.
Assam ..	1908	10	2	7	0	55½	20	36	39	546	..	Weights not out.
Duars ..	1903	10	2	6	11	49	18½	37	39½	476	..	Tiger empty.
Duars ..	1904	10	2	6	10	48	17½	36½	34½	..	14½	This is by far the biggest and heaviest tiger I have seen or shot. We did not weigh tigers till 1890.
Cooch Behar ...	1896	10	1½	6	10	51½	18½	38	40½	462	..	This tiger must have weighed close on 600 lbs.
Cooch Behar ...	1887	10	1½	7	1½	54	21	40½	44½	..	15½	Mentioned in Stern- dale's book.
Cooch Behar ...	1883	10	1	6	9½	56	19½	36	41	..	..	Empty.
Assam ...	1895	10	1	6	11	51½	20	37	36½	466	..	Full of beef.
Assam ...	1905	10	1	6	9	48	17½	36	40½	507	..	
Duars ...	1891	10	½	6	11	54½	20	38	38	493	..	
Cooch Behar ..	1885	10	0	6	10	51	18½	34	40	..	15	
Cooch Behar ...	1890	10	0	6	11	52	21	36	40	520	14½	
Cooch Behar ...	1895	9	11	6	8½	51	18	36½	36½	422	..	
Cooch Behar ...	1889	9	11	6	9	50½	20½	37	39½	..	..	
Cooch Behar ...	1896	9	10½	6	9½	51	28	38	38½	496	..	
Duars ...	1893	9	10	6	7½	52	26	36	39	512	..	

RECORDS OF BIG TIGERS SHOT—*contd.*

District where shot.	Year.	Total Length.		Length of Body.		Circumference behind shoulder.	Biceps.	Forearm.	Round Head.	Height.	Weight.	Length of Dry Skull.	Remarks.
		Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.								
Assam ...	1905	9	10	6	8	53	...	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	lbs.	Ins.	Fully gorged.
Assam ...	1905	9	10	6	9	48	25	18	35	38	459	...	
Duars ...	1896	9	9	6	9	51	28	19	38	38	496	14	
Cooch Behar ...	1885	9	9	6	10	50	26	18	36	41	...	...	Fully gorged. Empty. Very heavy tiger. Tiger had a small feed only. Bulky beast.
Cooch Behar ...	1886	9	9	6	7	54	26	18	36	39	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1898	9	9	6	9	48	27	18	36	39	490	...	
Assam ...	1899	9	9	6	10	49	25	17	35	39	440	...	
Duars ...	1896	9	8	6	8	54	28	18	36	40	489	...	
Duars ...	1891	9	8	6	9	52	29	18	38	40	467	...	Splendid beast.
Assam ...	1900	9	8	6	7	51	25	19	36	39	472	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1889	9	8	6	7	52	25	19	39	40	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1902	9	7	6	6	49	25	20	36	42	...	...	Full of beef.
Cooch Behar ...	1892	9	7	6	7	50	28	18	39	40	492	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1889	9	7	6	8	51	27	19	37	38	...	...	Fully gorged.
Cooch Behar ...	1902	9	6	6	6	52	29	18	35	42	450	...	
Duars ...	1890	9	6	6	5	52	29	19	37	38	481	...	
Duars ...	1891	9	6	6	6	52	26	18	35	39	455	...	
Duars ...	1904	9	6	6	5	47	25	17	33	39	445	...	

# RECORDS OF BIG TIGRESSES SHOT.

Where shot.	Year.	Total Length.		Length of Body.		Girth behind shoulder.	Biceps.	Forearm.	Round Head.	Height.	Weight.	Dry Skull.	Remark
		Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.								
Assam ...	1902	9	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	42	20	15	34	35	...	Ins.	I believe this is a record tigress, no weights out. Exceptionally fine tigress. The heaviest I have seen. No other measurements taken.
Forest Reserves.	1893	9	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	41	23	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{3}{4}$	343	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1890	9	3	6	3	41	22	16	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	34	360	...	
Assam ...	1902	9	3	6	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1889	9	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Duars ...	1891	8	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1884	8	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Assam ...	1902	8	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Duars ...	1904	8	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Assam ...	1895	8	10	5	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Assam ...	1895	8	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	296	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1886	8	10	5	10	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	22	15	28	34	307	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1885	8	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Assam ...	1900	8	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1890	8	9	5	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Duars ...	1890	8	9	5	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1892	8	9	5	10	...	...	...	...	...	308	...	
Assam ...	1894	8	9	5	9	...	...	...	...	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1896	8	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	278	...	
Assam ...	1895	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Duars ...	1904	8	8	5	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Duars ...	1904	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1889	8	8	5	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	23	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	
Assam ...	1894	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	29	...	...	...	

# RECORDS OF BIG BUFFS SHOT.

Year shot.	Sex.	Total length between sticks.	Length of body between sticks.	Girth	Round neck nearest shoulder.	Round neck nearest head.	Height.	Horns tip to tip round outside curves.	Base of horn	Remarks.
		Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	In.	Hds	Ft.	In.	
1880	Bull	...	...	...	...	...	18 1	10 7	21 1/2	Fine beast. No other measurements taken.
1881	Bull	...	...	...	...	...	18 2 1/2	9 11 1/2	23 1/2	Huge beast. The biggest I have ever seen or shot. No other measurements taken.
1882	Bull	...	...	...	...	...	18 1	10 6	19	Very fine bull.
1885	Bull	13 3	10 2	110	100	60	18 2	10 3	21 1/2	Magnificent bull. In prime of life.
1892	Bull	13 5	10 3	104	92	63	18 0	9 8 1/2	22 1/2	Fine bull getting on in years.
1895	Bull	13 1	10 1	116	90	66	18 1 1/2	9 5 1/2	21	Very fine beast. Grand fighter. Took more killing than any buff I have ever come across.
1902	Bull	12 6	9 4 1/2	109	92	58 1/2	17 1	9 9 1/2	21 1/2	Heavily built beast.
1908	Bull	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 8 1/2	18 1/2	Finest cow I have ever shot.
1886	Cow	12 2	9 6 1/2	96	...	...	17 ...	11 6 1/2	15 1/2	The biggest cow I have ever seen or shot.
1891	Cow	12 6	9 8	94	...	...	17 3	10 3	16	Good beast.
1895	Cow	...	...	...	...	...	16 3	10 6 1/2	15 1/2	I gave the original of these horns to the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. The horns are peculiar in shape, being very wide spread. They measured 8 ft.
1902	Cow	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 11 1/2	16 1/2	2 1/2 in. between tips.
1907	Cow	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 10 1/2	15 1/2	Fine cow.



# RECORDS OF BIG RHINOS SHOT.

Year shot.	Sex.	Total length between sticks.		Length of body between sticks.		Girth.		Height at shoulder.		Length of horn.		Remarks.
		Ft.	Ins.	Ft.	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	Hands	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	
1886	Bull	11	7½	10	1	109		18	0	11½		Exceptionally fine beast. Magnificent bull.
1886	Bull	12	6	10	9	116		18	½	10½		
1899	Bull	11	10	10	3	112		18	1	13½		Fine bull. The biggest Rhino I have seen or shot. Magnificent beast in every way. I think he is a record as regards height also.
1891	Bull	12	2	10	10	116		17	2	...		
1892	Bull	12	3	10	6	124		17	3½	12		
1893	Bull	11	9	10	5	114		18	½	13		
1895	Bull	11	10	10	2	110		18	1	13½		Biggest cow I have shot. No other measurements taken. Do.
1895	Bull	12	9	11	0	119		19	½	13		
1898	Bull	11	10	10	2	112		18	½	...		Biggest cow I have shot. No other measurements taken. Do.
1902	Bull	12	9	10	5½	118		17	2½	12½		
1890	Cow	12	2	10	1	124		17	1	9½		
1895	Cow	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	16½		
1901	Cow	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	14½		

# RECORDS OF BIG BISON SHOT.

Year shot.	Sex.	Total length between sticks.		Length of body between sticks.		Height at shoulder.		Height at hump.	Horns tip to tip side curves.		Base of horn.	Widest spray.	Between tips.	Remarks.
		Ft.	Ins.	Ft.	Ins.	Hds.	Ins.	Hds.	Ins.	Hds.	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	
...	Bull	12	2½	9	5	18	3½	19	3½	8½	18½	40½	23½	Magnificent bull.
1883	Bull	12	1½	9	3	18	4	19	0	76½	18	30½	24½	Fine beast.
1889	Bull	...	...	...	...	17	2½	...	...	74½	19½	...	...	No other measurements taken
1891	Bull	12	2½	9	5	18	3½	19	3½	72	20½	...	20½	Splendid beast. Very bulky.
1899	Bull	12	3½	9	6½	18	3½	20	4	76½	20½	39	26½	The biggest bison I have ever seen or shot. A great fighter.
1901	Bull	12	2	9	5½	18	3	19	3½	78½	19½	39	23½	Fine big bull.
1902	Bull	12	3	9	5	18	2½	19	3	84	21	43	31½	Magnificent bull. Though not as big as the one shot in 1899, he possessed a splendid pair of horns. A big fighter.
1902	Bull	12	1½	9	1½	17	3½	18	3½	77	18½	37½	21½	Good bull.
1902	Cow	..	...	...	...	17	1½	17	3	73½	13½	29	10	Magnificent cow, was mistaken for a bull. Her horns are, I believe, a record. No other measurements taken.
1902	Cow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71½	12½	29	9½	Fine cow.
1902	Cow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70	...	...	...	No other measurements taken.

# RECORDS OF BIG BEARS SHOT.

Year shot.	Sex.	Total length.		Length of Body.		Girth.	Biceps.	Fore-arm.	Head.		Height.	Weight.	Remarks.
		Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.				In.	In.			
1903	Male	7	1	6	7	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	Pity no other measurements taken. Very big beast. Splendid beast. The biggest I have seen or shot, except perhaps the one shot in 1903. Fine bear. Oldish bear, but a fine beast.
1890	Male	6	10	6	2	54½	26	18½	35½	36	423	...	
1897	Male	6	9	6	2	50	22	18½	37	35½	392	...	
1899	Male	6	7	6	½	53½	25	17½	...	...	378	...	
1883	Male	6	7	6	0	51½	20	16	36½	...	...	...	
1889	Male	6	7	5	11	51	20	16	...	...	...	...	
1895	Male	6	7	6	0	49	22	18	36½	...	341	...	
1897	Male	6	6	6	0	50½	24	17½	...	...	350	...	

# RECORDS OF BIG LEOPARDS SHOT.

Year shot.	Sex.	Total length.		Length of Body.		Height.	Weight.	Remarks.
		Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.			
1885	Male	8	4	...	...	...	...	This was a magnificent leopard. A record I believe. Pity I did not take other measurements.
1890	Male	8	2½	...	...	...	...	
1883	Male	8	1½	...	...	...	...	
1906	Male	8	1½	...	...	...	...	
1893	Male	8	0	...	...	...	...	
1890	Male	7	10½	4	10	26½	...	
1897	Male	7	10	4	10	...	139	
1900	Male	7	9	4	10	...	...	
1903	Male	7	9	...	...	...	...	
1904	Male	7	8½	...	...	...	...	
1893	Male	7	8½	4	10	...	...	
1898	Male	7	7½	4	8	...	150	
1903	Male	7	7½	...	...	...	...	
1890	Male	7	7½	...	...	...	...	
1892	Male	7	6½	4	9	...	140	

# RECORDS OF BIG SAMBHUR AND BARASINGH.

Samblur Stag, shot 1890	...	...	...	...	Weight 51st. 3lbs
" " " 1893	...	...	...	...	" 53st. 1lb.
" " " 1893	...	...	...	...	" 48st. 10lbs
" " " 1891	...	...	...	...	" 40st. 2lbs.
<hr/>					
Barasingh stag, shot in 1893	...	...	...	...	Weight 42st.
" " 1893	...	...	...	...	" 40st. 3lbs.

## APPENDIX.

### RIFLES AND GUNS.

I BEGAN shooting in the days of muzzle-loaders, and have, during my time, tried almost every variety of weapon, from a 4-bore double-barrelled rifle firing 15 drams of black powder to the smallest bore modern up-to-date cordite rifle. For big game shooting off *howdahs*, the ideal battery for a sportsman of limited means in the present period when cordite rifles have been brought to such perfection is a '465 or '500 express firing 70 grain or more cordite and a combined ball and shot gun like Holland's Paradox or Westley Richard's 'Explora.' The '465 cordite is powerful enough to kill an Elephant, and can also be used with smaller charges for Carnivora, Deer and Pig.

The 12-bore Cordite Paradox is an excellent weapon for Tiger, Bear or Leopard at short ranges up to 100 yards, and is also an excellent shot gun. When the sportsman can

## APPENDIX.

afford to have more than two guns, I should add to the battery a shot gun by a good maker and a smaller bore high velocity rifle—a '375 or '400. This weapon is powerful enough for even the bigger game and is extremely useful as a second rifle. I have accounted for several tiger and a good many stags and boars with these weapons. I think the days of the big bore rifles firing black powder are over.

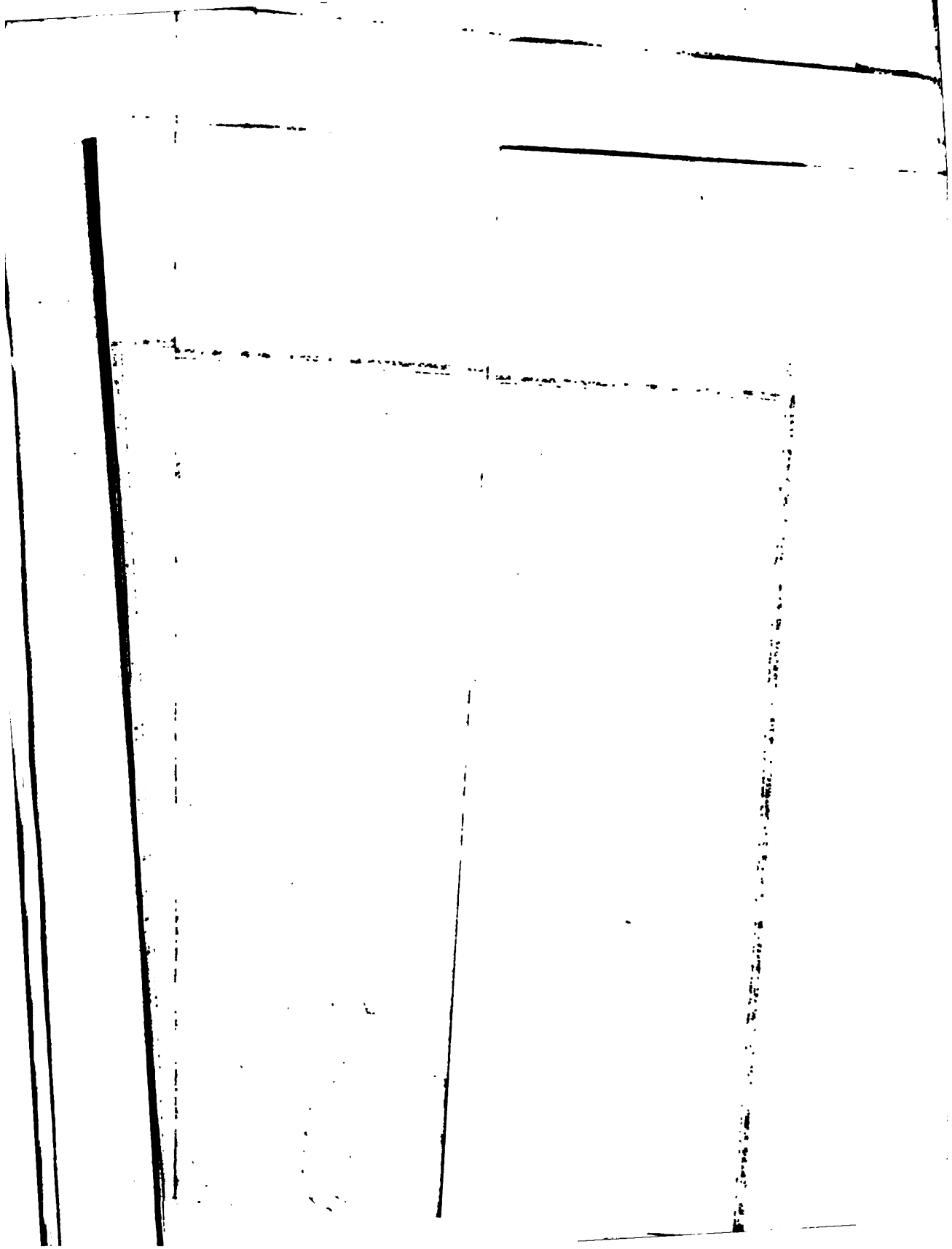
It is essential for *howdah* shooting to have a handy weapon—it is also necessary that the weapon should be powerful enough to stop a charging Tiger or Bear, and it is here where the Paradox or the 'Explora' comes in. Both these guns are more powerful than the ordinary 12-bore cylinder gun, and one can do very accurate shooting with them at ranges where a 12-bore cylinder gun would be practically useless. Personally speaking I have had my 'Paradox' built to take a heavier charge of powder than the ordinary pattern. During the days of black powder, my Paradox was built to fire  $4\frac{1}{2}$  drams of black powder, and my new cordite Paradox fires 33 grain of cordite. I have used a Paradox since it was first put on the market, and I hold that the weapon has absolutely no superior for this kind of shooting.

## *APPENDIX.*

With regard to makers of rifles, I consider Messrs. Holland & Holland second to none. I have had rifles of various calibres from them all my life, and do not regret it. I have also had shot guns from this firm at different times, and found them excellent weapons ; as a rule, however, Purdey & Gibbs have generally supplied me with my shot guns and I want nothing better. I would also like to say a word about the rifles I have had from Messrs. Manton & Co. They built me two rifles, No. 2 '450 cordite and a '400 cordite ; these are both excellent weapons in every way and leave nothing to be desired. I might mention here that latterly I have used nothing but hammerless rifles and guns, and though my '577 Westley Richards and my pair of '500 cordite rifles, built by Lang and by Holland & Holland, fire very heavy charges, they have never been out of order or given any trouble. I mention this because I believe there is a general impression that it is unsafe and unsatisfactory to have hammerless cordite weapons built if they are of a larger calibre than '400.

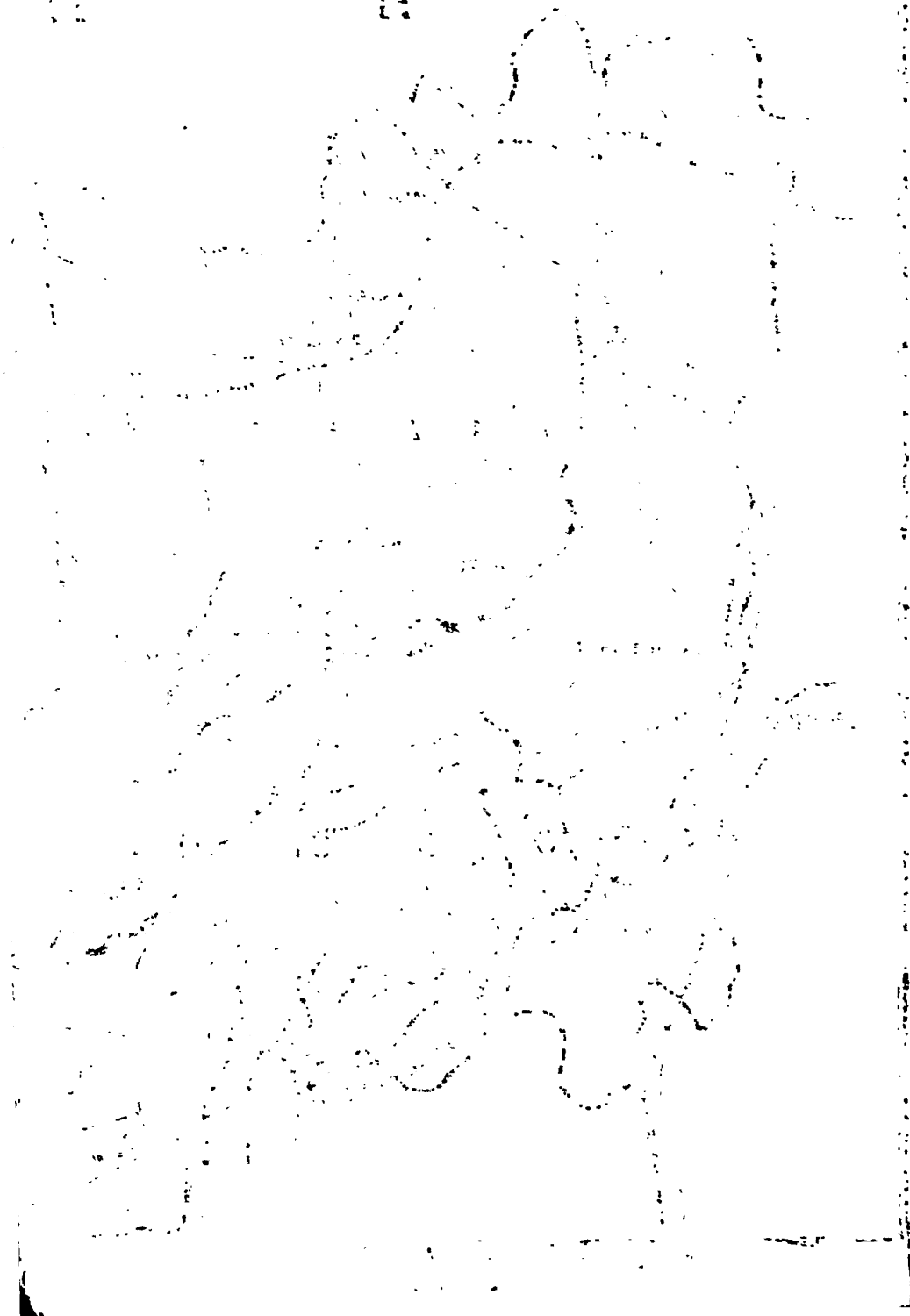






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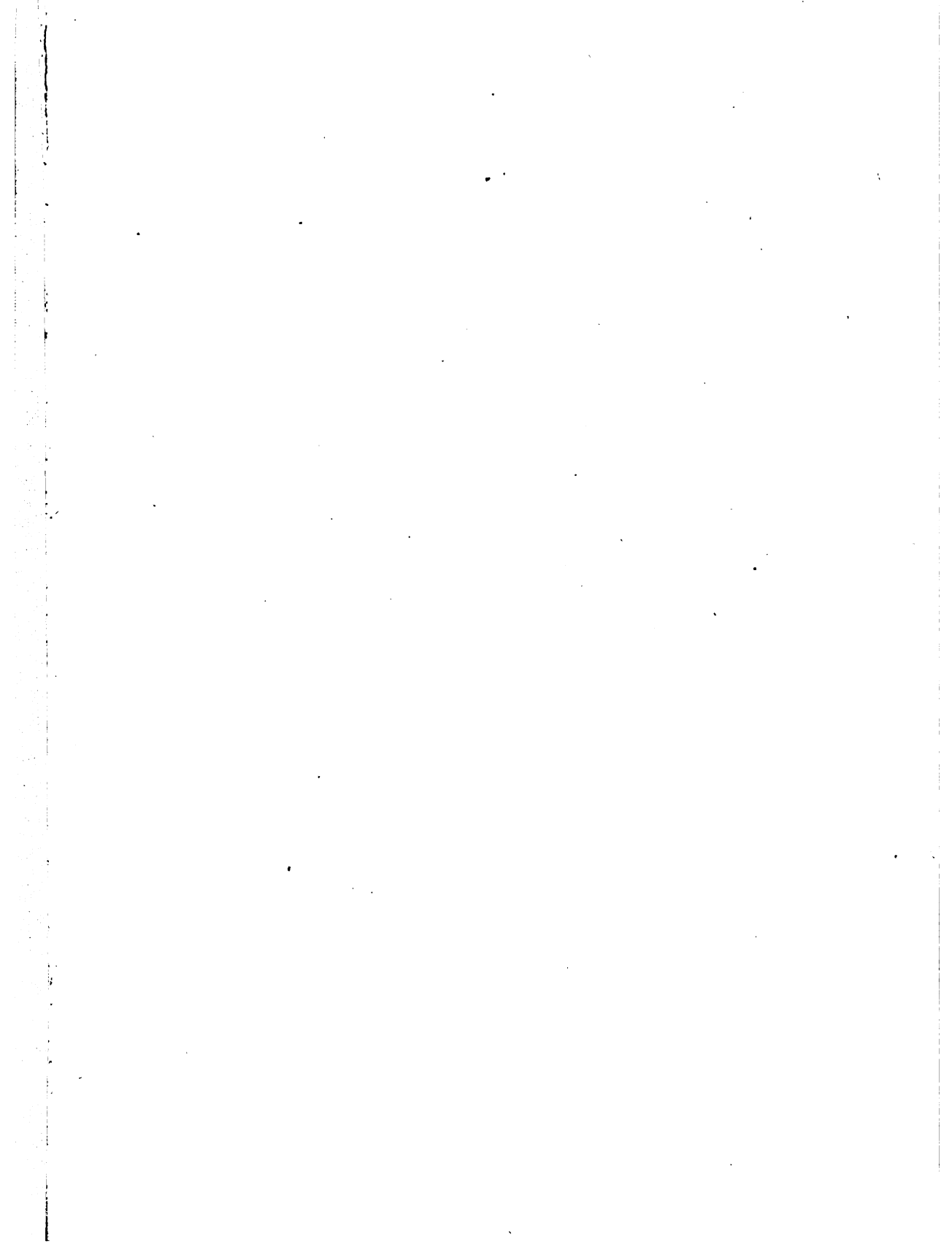














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[illegible]

